LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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The Problem of the Apathetic Member

By J. Ruffe-Williams
Honorary Secretary, Newport (Mon.) Branch

On page 18 of the January issue, it was our pleasure to report Newport to be the perfect branch—no arrears, all subscriptions due having been paid within the financial year. We regard this happy state of affairs to be proof conclusive that apathy is unknown amongst the members of that branch, but it may not always have been so. At any rate, the causes of apathy amongst the general body of members of a branch have been examined with some care by Mr. J. Ruffe-Williams, the honorary secretary of the branch, who here details what he believes to be the best methods of keeping interest alive. This seems to be a good subject for discussion and readers are invited to submit their views for publication. It gives the apathetic member an opportunity of saying why he is apathetic, the enthusiastic member of "having a go" at his less enthusiastic colleagues, and those hard-working honorary officers a chance to tell their electors what they think of them. The correspondence columns are open for discussion, but please don't write lengthy letters, for they waste the editor's blue pencil.

DURING a fair experience of branch work the writer has often pondered on the lack of interest displayed by many members of the Association in regard to the policy and activities of N.A.L.G.O.

Some branches are, of course, more fortunate than others in the degree of enthusiasm which their members show, and N.A.L.G.O. can proudly claim to have within its fold some really "live" branches whose members are well aware of the value of scientific service organisation and who thus take full advantage of the great negotiating and protective machine which the Association has become.

The Deadly Germ

On the other hand, it must be admitted that N.A.L.G.O. has also some black sheep in the fold. For example, there are some branches whose treasurer must perforce send in his annual return to headquarters with a regrettably large amount recorded in respect of subscriptions in arrear; other branches are never adequately represented at their district committee meetings, and therefore do not contribute their due quota to the Association's counsels. Such branches are afflicted with the deadly germ of apathy—that greatest enemy of all organisation—which weakens the hand of the Association in negotiating and is a drag on all the progressive branches who are out for improvement in service conditions.

To the secretaries of "live" branches these remarks may have little significance; but to the unfortunate secretaries of branches whose members are afflicted with this lack of interest it may be useful to consider some of the possible causes of apathy and to try to discover the best method of attacking it.

Mr. J. RUFFE-WILLIAMS

Missionary Work

A short talk with an uninterested member will usually reveal his lack of knowledge of the work of the Association. A branch secretary should not consider his job properly performed unless he sends out, at fairly frequent intervals throughout the year, circulars to the members reminding them of the various facilities afforded by the Association, and the work which is constantly being done in respect of service interests. Some excellent pamphlets are obtainable from headquarters for this type of propaganda and these pamphlets have been found useful not only for wholesale distribution, but when used as the basis of circular letters each on different aspects of the Association's work. Department notice boards should be utilised where possible for this "missionary" work.

A frequent cause of apathy in some cases, it is suggested, is the sameness and sparsity of the visible results of the work of a branch. It is so easy for members to imagine that the routine annual meeting and dinner, together with one or two social functions throughout the year, comprise the sum total of the return they receive for their subscriptions. Branches where many members are of this opinion undoubtedly exist. The state of mind is often brought about in consequence of a vicious circle set up by apathetic members and discouraged officers over a long period. The position may, in some cases, call for a complete overhaul of the branch constitution.

Opportunities for Discussion

There is no reason why in every branch the local organisation should not provide for free discussion of matters both in respect of the greater service issues and of the smaller points arising day by day which affect staff welfare.

A scheme could be devised whereby officers in each department elected a small sub-committee consisting of (say) three members to discuss suggestions and matters affecting the staff. The sub-committees would report their business and the results of their efforts to the local executive committee of the branch (consisting of representatives from each of the departmental sub-committees), who would discuss matters affecting all the members as well as decide what action, if any, was to be taken in regard to matters arising out of the minutes of the sub-committees. The deliberations of the executive committee would result where necessary in representations being made to the council of the employing authority.

The above scheme is put forward merely as a practical example of a form of organisation suitable for a fairly large branch and which should be a continual stimulus to branch progress.

Breeding-ground for Apathy

Few councils these days refuse their blessing on a reasonable scheme for setting up machinery to deal with staff matters. The keynote of a successful branch organisation is the free and effective passage of ideas from members to a democratically elected executive committee. Where this free and effective passage does not exist there is created a breeding-ground for apathy. Where it does exist, enthusiasm will soon follow.

It must always be remembered that N.A.L.G.O. is a very powerful organisation and is behind every branch endeavouring to secure improved service conditions.

At Random

By "HYPERION"

"TO BE HAPPY AT HOME IS THE ULTIMATE RESULT OF ALL AMBITION."—Dr. Johnson.

"Life With Father"

On Christmas Day, in the intervals of listening to the hearty boys of the B.B.C., I re-read *Life with Father*, by Clarence Day.

Like *The Diary of a Nobody*, and Boswell's *Life*, and *Alice in Wonderland*, it is a book which can be read over and over again; and, like them, it will, I believe, take its place among the classics in the English language. It is one of the few books which compel one to laugh out loud—and laughter, so the physiologists say, is even better for us than Guinness. The redoubtable figure of Mr. Day Senior dominates the whole book, but equally delightful is the picture of Mrs. Day, the one person in the world who can stand up to him.

I like the account of how, when the family was suddenly left without a cook, father burst into a Registry Office, entered, regardless of the manager's protests, the room where the maids were waiting, took a swift glance round, and pointing his cane at one girl said: "I'll take that one."

"I don't know why you make such a fuss about engaging new servants. It's simple enough," he said comfortably to mother that evening.

Margaret, the maid he selected, stayed with the Day family for twenty-six years, and proved to be a pillar of the household.

I like, too, this characteristic passage:

Long after Margaret died, father was speaking one night of how good her things always had tasted.

"I wish she could hear you," said mother. She smiled tenderly at the thought of that gallant and dear little figure. "If anybody ever was sure of going to heaven," she added, "I know it was Margaret."

This struck father as a recommendation of the place. He took a sip of cognac and said casually: "I'll look her up when I get there. I'll have her take care of me."

Mother started to say something, but checked herself.

"What's the matter?" he asked.

"Well, Clare, dear," said mother, "Margaret must be in some special part of heaven, she was so good. You'd be very fortunate, Clare, to get to the same part as Margaret."

"Hah!" father said, suddenly scowling, "I'll make a devil of a row if I don't."

* * *

A Question of Fact

Visitor: "How old are you, sonny?"

Boy: "That's hard to say, sir. According to my latest school tests, I have a psychological age of eleven and a moral age of ten. Anatomically I'm seven; mentally I'm nine. But I suppose you refer to my chronological age. That's eight—but nobody pays any attention to that these days."—From the "Civil Service Bulletin."

* * *

New Year Resolutions

I had no time to evolve a fresh set of New Year resolutions for myself, but I came across the following "Resolutions when I come to be old," made by Dean Swift in 1699:

Not to marry a young woman.

Not to keep young company unless they reely desire it.

Not to be peevish or morose, or suspicious.

Not to tell the same story over and over to the same people.

Not to be covetous.

Not to be over severe with young people, but give allowances for their youthful follies and wicknesses.

Not to be too free of advise nor trouble any but those that desire it.

Not to talk much, nor of my self.

Not to boast of my former beauty, or strength, or favour with ladyes, &c.

Not to be positive or opiniative.

Not to sett up for observing all these Rules, for fear I should observe none.

I commend them to all who, like myself, are approaching the "sere and yellow" period of life.

* * *

His Job

A policeman tells this story. He was detailed to see a number of small children from one of our schools safely across the road.

"There was one little cock-sparrow," he said, "who could not be more than seven years old. 'Hey, Johnny,' I remarked, 'a bit late aren't you?' To which he replied: 'Thy bizness is to see me safe across t'rooad, not to mek remarks.'"

A City Councillor of the future—or maybe a disgruntled motorist.

* * *

"Knock! Knock!"

And here is another "police" story told by Tom Walls, who alleges that it is true.

His car was stopped by a policeman on the way to Shepperton. Constable knocked twice on the chauffeur's window.

Chauffeur thought it would be better if he played.

"Who's there?"

"Butcher!"

"Butcher who?"

"Butcher lights on."

* * *

Spirited Ferret Hits Back

Ferrets have been infected with a virus which has produced in them conditions exactly similar to those of 'flu. When a ferret sneezed in the face of one of the doctors the doctor caught the 'flu.—*From the news.*

* * *

Without Comment

"I am not afraid to state my beliefs, and I think we Salford people are the finest on God's earth."—The Mayor, Councillor P. Ashcroft, J.P.—*Salford City Reporter.*

* * *

An Up-to-Date Inferno

The hell they meet in is an up-to-date version of the Greek's hell—that is, a place not for punishment, but for learning sense. Three hundred years of facing facts and outgrowing illusions, and then back to earth.

Hell has skyscrapers, town-planning schemes and artificial sunlight; electric trains at 225 m.p.h.; no Belisha beacons but a strong Safety First movement (for they mend you on arrival in hell, but if you damage yourself once you're there, you remain damaged for the rest of your infernal life); a class system and week-end bungalows; a dictator who makes occasional and impressive appearances at the microphone; a stock exchange, a National Trust, hikers' hostels, and inhabitants who are perfectly ready to spoil the beautiful surroundings of Lake Avernus for the sake of working a vein of adamant, hell's precious substance.—*From a review of "Damnation of Mr. Zinkler" in "Now and Then."*

HELP YOURSELF SOCIETY

Result of Competitions

Members and others who purchased Annuals through N.A.L.G.O. have again been very successful in submitting winning entries under the various competitions. A full list of prizewinners for Competitions Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are shown hereunder.

Owing to the overwhelming number of entries sent in for Competition No. 4, the result will not be known until March, and a list of winners will be published in the *Daily Sketch* on Saturday, March 6.

No.	NAME	BRANCH
UG.1446	Mrs. P. Howitt	Liverpool
NM.515	Mr. J. E. Davies	Manchester
WA.174	Mr. A. J. Morris	Monmouth C.C.
WA.337	Mr. T. H. Holding	St. Helens
ED.276	Mr. H. W. Pinder	Leicester C.C.
MT.676	Mr. K. E. Stainton	Sheffield
ED.552	Mr. L. W. Hearn	Notts C.C.
MS.1019	Mr. E. J. B. West	Devon C.C.
MU.1800	Mr. F. W. Sanders	Aylesbury
UZ.1494	Mr. T. G. Chappell	Barnsley
MU.353	Miss A. Ellison	N.W. District
UG.1061	Mr. C. N. Jauncey	Denbigh C.C.
MS.1590	Mr. D. T. Lewis	Gellygaer
MU.356	Mr. M. Ashton	N.W. District
MU.351	Mrs. E. G. Ashton	" "
NH.1862	Mr. T. Hill	Bolton
VR.1897	Mr. H. B. Tuffin	Dorset C.C.
MS.1284	Mr. D. A. James	Aberdare
MY.1171	Mr. J. Penny	Dundee
VA.1405	Mr. G. Carpenter	P.L.A.
NB.1476	Mr. J. T. Strickland	Bethnal Green
MS.991	Mr. M. C. Coleman	E. Suffolk
NH.1602	Mr. W. C. King	Poplar
VA.795	Miss E. Stephens	Hendon
NM.183	Mr. A. P. Platt	St. Helens
MU.1659	Mr. F. Bailey	Rochester
MU.744	Mr. J. Lewis	Devon C.C.
VA.1459	Mr. A. L. Sills	P.L.A.
VA.1455	Mr.W. R. Barrett	P.L.A.
MU.450	Mr. A. Paul	Salisbury
EC.1597	Mr. P. C. Kelly	Woolwich
MS.867	Mrs. V. Wilson	Cambridge C.C.
VA.1542	Mr. L. Kerridge	St. Marylebone
UG.972	Mr. I. G. Macdonald	Cheshire C.C.
NH.1916	Miss M. Hollick	Kent C.C.
WA.675	Mr. C. A. Randall	Woolwich
EE.362	Mr. T. W. Moorby	E. Riding
WA.678	Mr. I. Waters	Woolwich
MS.865	Mr. A. W. Clarke	Cambridge C.C.
NH.1821	Mr. A. H. Fairlamb	P.L.A.
UH.284	Mr. G. E. Allan	Waterloo
MT.1371	Mr. A. G. Macdonald	Perth
MU.1826	Mr. E. W. L. Rickwood	Bournemouth

ERRATA

MOVEMENT OF MEMBERS

In the December issue we reported that Mr. R. Fern Smith had been appointed as junior employment officer at Carlisle. Mr. Smith has since informed us that his designation is juvenile employment officer and we hasten to apologise to him for any inconvenience he may have suffered as a result of this incorrect notification.

PROPOSED DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME

We regret that there was an error at page 6 of the January, 1937, issue of "Local Government Service."

The facts are that an interim report was submitted to the National Executive Council at its December meeting on the replies which have so far been received from branches on the proposed death benefit scheme, but the Council took no action in connection with those replies because branches were given until January 31, 1937, to submit their observations. This fact was, unfortunately, mis-reported in "Local Government Service" and we wish to correct the erroneous impression which has been created.

N.A.L.G.O.'s
EDUCATIONAL TOUR
UNITED STATES and CANADA
Places of Interest to be Visited—No. 2

After re-embarking in the *Andania* at Quebec, the N.A.L.G.O. educational tour party will enjoy a sail of twelve hours or more up to Montreal. About six miles up the St. Lawrence River the wonderful Quebec bridge is reached. This has a longer clear central span than any other bridge in the world, measuring 1,800 ft., or actually 100 ft. longer than the Forth Bridge, and was completed in 1917. As the ship approaches the bridge a curious optical illusion is created, whereby it seems impossible for the tall masts of the ship to pass safely—always a thrilling moment for the watching passengers.

Historically, Montreal is almost as interesting as Quebec. Founded in 1642, near the site of a large Indian village, the first settlement was the centre for those intrepid explorers and missionaries who blazed trails through pathless forests,

SHERBROOKE STREET, MONTREAL

sailed the uncharted waters of the Great Lakes and eventually descended the mighty Mississippi. Wars with the Indians and the English did not interfere with Montreal's growth. In 1760 it was the last stand of the French after the Battle of the Plains of Abraham at Quebec. The section between Notre Dame and the St. Lawrence is full of quaint old buildings reminiscent of these early days.

Not far from the river-front, near Notre Dame, stands the picturesque old Chateau de Ramezay. This was the residence of the French governors, and many a brilliant gathering assembled in its rooms during the old regime. Later it passed to the Compagnie des Indes and was the centre of the fur trade, but in 1763 it again housed a governor, this time British. The building is now a treasure house of historical relics. The oldest church in Montreal is Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours, the shrine of the sailors; whilst St. James' Cathedral is also interesting as an exact replica of St. Peter's at Rome, and a quarter of its size.

Montreal is situated on a long and rather narrow island at the junction of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers. From whatever direction you approach, the most striking feature is Mount Royal, a mountain peak which rises in the very centre of the city. Perhaps the finest view of the district is to be obtained from the Westmount Look-out. The city is spread out below you like a carpet. Beyond is the mighty St. Lawrence spanned by two bridges, each over a mile long, and beyond again a wide plain stretches to mountains away on the horizon, mountains of the United States. If you wander along the beautiful wooded roadways of Mount Royal, you will also see the spurs of the Laurentians, which stretch like a great crescent over the vast extent of territory between the St. Lawrence River and Hudson's Bay. And on Westmount you should certainly visit St. Joseph's Oratory, popularly known as Brother Andre's Shrine, to which thousands of pilgrims come every year.

Montreal is well provided with schools and places of learning, including two famous universities. McGill University, founded in 1811 by the Hon. James McGill, is the leading institution of learning in Canada, and is known in all parts of the world. The Universite de Montreal was founded in 1878 by the Quebec priests as a branch of the Laval University at Quebec, and has now an enrolment of over five thousand students.

A list of the chief industries of this great

(*Continued in next column*)

(*Continued from previous column*)

city would be a long one. Here are the towering grain elevators and gigantic warehouses, which make it the world's greatest grain port and the second largest port in America —a thousand miles from the sea. The population of Montreal—including its immediate suburbs—is well over a million.

Summer Schools, 1937
Preliminary Arrangements

A land of waters green and clear,
Of willows and of poplars tall,
And in the spring-time of the year
The white may breaking over all,
And Pleasure quick to come at call;
And Summer rides by marsh and wold,
And Autumn with her crimson pall
About the towers of Magdalen roll'd;
And strange enchantments from the past,
And memories of the friends of old,
And strong Tradition, binding fast
The flying terms with bands of gold—
All these hath Oxford: all are dear,
But dearer far the little town,
The drifting surf, the wintry year,
The college of the scarlet gown:
St. Andrews by the Northern Sea,
That is a haunted town to me!

Andrew Lang.

Andrew Lang's Almae Matres is a delightful eulogy on St. Andrews. That he, a Scotsman, should also have a word of praise for Oxford is praise indeed. What finer surroundings could be found for our summer schools than these two wonderful towns?

The **Scottish Summer School** will be held from July 3 to July 10 at St. Andrews University.

The **English Summer School** will be held at Lincoln College, Oxford, from July 17 to July 24. The charges for the two schools will be at the rate of 10s. 6d. per day. Lincoln College, founded in the fifteenth century, has many historical associations and students attending the school will have an opportunity of capturing something of the University atmosphere. The lectures at the Oxford summer school will deal with the growth of local government and the change of ideas as the result of economic and social efforts, and will outline the possibility of planning in local government.

Paris Summer School. A summer school, which will be limited to thirty students, will be held in Paris from July 3 to July 10. Lectures will be delivered in English on French public administration, and visits to institutions and centres of administration will be arranged so that students may have an opportunity of studying at first hand French public administration. The school will be held at the Cité Universitaire, well known to students throughout the world. The probable cost for attending the school, including travelling from London to Paris and back to London, accommodation for the week, attendance at lectures, visits, etc., will be £7.

The increasing numbers attending the summer schools indicate the popularity of the summer school movement. To spend a week's holiday at a N.A.L.G.O. summer school is no sacrifice; it is an education relaxation, and the social side of the school has frequently been described by students as an ideal holiday.

The Doctor's Mandate in Parliament

In the Chadwick Public Lecture given on November 24th, Sir Francis Fremantle (himself a Medical M.P.) told the story of the building up of the Ministry of Health and outlined the achievements of pre-war doctors in the Commons and pre-war health legislation generally. The influence of the war with its large scale preventive measures, together with post-war health enactments and the progress of national health, was reviewed. The mandate of the medical M.P., his place in the machinery of Parliament and government administration with the daily routine of his work, was described and the national health finally considered in relation to the power of public opinion in democracy v. bureaucracy and democracy v. dictatorship, and to the responsibility of every man. Here are some extracts from the lecture.

EVERY M.P. has a two-fold duty—that to his constituents, that to Parliament. But he is sent to Parliament, again, with a double mandate, for his contribution. If a genius is a man who knows something about everything and everything about something, so a doctor's mandate is to express himself—and through him the special experience of his profession and the knowledge of life in every phase of it and every section of the community—both on matters of health and on those of general policy and administration.

On health matters he has his great opportunity. At the beginning of this century the sanitation of environment, begun by Chadwick and other reformers one hundred years ago, was approaching a settlement; the importance of the prevention or early treatment of disease in the individual was hardly recognised. The Midwives Act, 1902; the Notification of Births Act, 1908—the basis of maternity and child welfare activities; the introduction of a school medical service in 1907, of national health and unemployment insurance in 1911, of the Medical Research Council, which sprang from it, were of first importance in this new direction. These measures grew from the conscious experience of the people.

The war, with its special needs, gave a great impetus to the new movements for national health. Out of it grew the Ministry of Health and the great housing movement, which has added over three million to the eight and a half million houses before the war and now, with the riddance of slums and overcrowding, bids fair to reach finality in a few years and thereafter only to need steady vigilance and activity on normal lines.

Post-war health legislation has developed the whole machinery of public health to a remarkable extent, throwing the burden and responsibility of its administration on local authorities with generous expert and financial assistance from the Government. The law has been simplified by consolidation; the auxiliary professions—nurses, midwives, dentists, architects, health visitors—have been recognised and helped; and probably the greatest measure of all is the Local Government Act, 1929, with block-grant, the conversion of the poor law into public assistance under county and county borough councils and the systematic re-arrangement of local administration.

The effects of this work are at least reflected in the records of the twenty-five years of his late Majesty's reign—the marked decline or elimination of certain diseases (e.g., enteric deaths from over 3,000 to 160 a year); the fall of death-rate by nearly 4 per 1,000, of infant mortality by 71 per 1,000 per annum; the increased expectation of life by seven years.

Medical Members of Parliament have not, of course, been the chief movers in these reforms; but they have played a considerable part.

A Parliamentary Medical Committee was formed after the war. It has worked in close association with the British Medical Association, but independently of it; it has taken an active interest in all the main Bills and subjects affecting health and kept fairly well in touch with the several offices and officials concerned, private and public, medical and lay. It has monthly meetings, hears evidence, takes deputations to Ministers and occasionally holds dinners.

But *on general policy and administration* the medical M.P. has no less an important part to play—a part as yet little recognised. He has a unique knowledge of the conditions of the people and of their mentality; he should know best both the effect of Parliamentary action in the social sphere and the will of the electorate in any matter. This is of increasing importance in a democracy with a universal franchise. Moreover, he is trained to the correct method of dealing with any problem: (a) observation of facts; (b) diagnosis of cause; (c) prescription of treatment; (d) effective action; (e) after-care or post-mortem. If he aims at high office he must avoid much occupation at first with health matters, or he will be damned as an expert. By such avoidance he gains experience and credit and may so, in the end, be of greatest service to the State, even in health matters. But even in the rank and file there is much for the doctor to do with his mandate. On him falls the privilege of dealing fearlessly in private and public with the awkward topics—sexual questions and marriage; betting and licensing; Sunday trading and moral and ecclesiastical problems—subjects instinct with pride, principle and, in the proper sense of the word, with prejudice.

He, almost alone in Parliament, has no right to shirk the difficulties of birth-control and other national dangers; he, more especially, can see disease in the body politic at an early stage and prescribe for its elimination; his whole desire and influence must be for peace; his voice should be heard, his part should be of especial value, in deciding root-policy affecting peace and war, strikes and conciliation, as indeed any other matter—finance, education, fine arts—if he will take the trouble to study them and their background. He stands above all for the proper blend of material and spiritual values, with the spirit, its encouragement and satisfaction, as the dominant note and object of the doctor's mandate in Parliament.

All Mankind's Concern

It is the custom of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Association to forward Christmas Hampers to beneficiaries. Here are a few letters of appreciation:

"I received Christmas hamper on Christmas Eve in good condition and excellent quality, for which we are very grateful.

"If you could have seen my son's expression when he helped me unpack all the good Christmas fare, you would have felt rewarded for the good work you are doing for widows and orphans."

. . . .

"Our Christmas hamper has just arrived, everything is exact with the list and all in good condition.

"How can I thank you for such great kindness? Words fail to express what I feel, for I can hardly believe such generosity can exist—it is such a magnificent hamper. This is an exceptionally dull time for us always, as Mr. —— died on January 1, 1929, so you can understand how very much I appreciate kindness at this time. Will you please convey my thanks to your committee also?"

. . . .

"I have received the hamper which has been sent to me from the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. The contents were in good condition and will be very useful.

"I wish you to convey to the committee how grateful and thankful I am for all they have done for my children and me in the past—this is indeed a splendid gift, which is very acceptable."

. . . .

"I beg to inform you that the box of Christmas fare arrived here safely this morning, all quite safe, for which we both tender our most grateful thanks for the same. It really is most kind of you to think of us at this time of the year. It is the first time that we have received such a delightful gift as yours in our life."

. . . .

"The hamper has just arrived. What a gorgeous collection of good things! Words fail me to express all I feel about it, and all the kindness shown me by the B. & O. Committee.

"Please convey to them my very sincere thanks, and accept my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas."

. . . .

"Your very acceptable Christmas hamper arrived at 11 o'clock this morning. I have checked the contents and everything is in perfect condition.

"My husband is still unemployed, and but for a few kind friends, including yourselves, my children would have had a very poor Christmas. On their behalf, I thank you very much indeed."

. . . .

"My wife and I thank you very much indeed for the hamper of choice gifts just received and in perfect condition. There is such a nice selection of first-class quality. We greatly appreciate your kindness, which will help us to enjoy our Christmas much better than we had expected."

. . . .

Surely this is ample testimony that the work of the fund is worthy of your generous support.

KEEP PUBLIC OFFICERS OUT OF PARTY POLITICS

Taking Unfair Advantage of Privileged Positions

ON more than one occasion attention has been focused in this journal on statements made and actions taken by members of political parties or organisations which have tended to bring public officers, the administrators of the social services, into the arena of party political controversies. Consistently and insistently have we deplored these unfair tactics, and we have said time and time again that nobody should take advantage of a privileged position to try to force local government officers, either in the exercise of their public functions or in their group functions as members of the Association, into the position of taking sides in matters of political party policy.

The leaders of the various political parties and sections are aware of our attitude; in the main, they endorse it, but, unfortunately, there are still some people within the party organisations who try to use their party membership and ambitions to bring public officers within the sphere of party influence.

Two events have occurred during the past month which tend to show that this intolerable attitude is not confined to any one party and for this very reason these events strengthen the opinion we have always expressed that, once the public officer is dragged into the disputes of political parties, impartial administration will go and, with its going, democracy will die. The public service cannot be used as the rope in the tug-o'-war without being weakened by the constant strain of the competing sides.

The first incident occurred at Stockton-on-Tees, where the town council is considering the question of a grading scheme. During the early days of January, the secretary of the Stockton Branch of the National Union of Public Employees, who is also a town councillor, had the temerity to send a circular letter to all members of the staff, in which he said: "I am a member of the sub-committee appointed last month to specially deal with this question so I cannot give any public statement at the moment on the matter except to state that agreement has been arrived at on certain points which, if we can induce the Town Council as a body to accept, will be a great improvement to all concerned.

"I should feel in a much happier position if I knew that all the staff were members of the Union and so backing up the efforts that are being made. I want to be in the position to state that all the staff are keen in support of proposals which will bring ordered progress for their welfare . . .

"I appeal to *you* to become a member of the N.U.P.E. Stockton Branch, which is affiliated to the other trade union bodies in the town and country, hence can get their effective support in efforts to improve conditions of labour . . .

"I am aware that some of the staff are members of an organisation *not affiliated to the Trade Union Congress General Council*, and would point out that this does not debar anyone from also joining this union."

For details of another case we cannot do better than quote the following extract from the "*Daily Herald*" for January 16 last:

A storm of resentment has arisen following the report that a Tory Municipal Reform candidate in the L.C.C. elections has dragged a permenent and highly-placed County official into the political arena.

"I notice with regret and disgust," Mr. Charles Latham, Labour chairman of the Finance Committee, told the "Daily Herald" last night, "that it appears our Tory opponents are seeking to drag the officers of the Council into London politics, and use them for Party political purposes.

"For instance, according to a report of a meeting held recently in Hackney, Mr. M. Moustardier, an ex-member of the Council and Municipal Reform candidate at the present election for South Hackney, is stated to have said of the L.C.C.:

"*Their own financial adviser, at a meeting of one of the principal committees of the Council, had drawn their attention to the fact that they were neglecting the essential services of London.*"

"All reasonable minded citizens," said Mr. Latham, "will resent actions of this kind, which are a disservice to the proper and upright government of municipal affairs.

Misleading the Electorate

"Such actions are unworthy of any party and any candidate.

"The financial adviser to the L.C.C. is the Comptroller, and I have his authority to say that the statement is untrue and without foundation and that he has never given any such advice.

"Statements of this kind are an indication of the length to which the Tories will go in misrepresentation and attempts to mislead the electorate who will do well to disregard such tactics and judge of Labour's control of London by its solid achievements which are plainly visible on every hand.

"This is an early indication of the misrepresentation which we must expect during the election campaign."

Mr. Morrison's Warning

Mr. Herbert Morrison, leader of the Council, said: "It is profoundly important that municipal officers, as Civil servants, should be kept out of political controversy and electoral combat.

"If officials are dragged into the political arena, it is likely to make the relationship with members of the Council either on one side or other, or on both, unduly difficult.

"It might even make it hard for an officer to give frank advice to a committee.

"The Comptroller of the Council who is, I know, politically impartial and unconcerned with political controversy, made no such statement as was suggested and it is to be regretted that such a mischievous thing has been done."

Foreign News

Exhibit A

MAYOR William V. Brown, of Texarkana, received a post card recently which read:

"Dear Sir, I would like to have information on your City Mayor. Yours truly." That, together with the signature, was all.

Whereupon the good Mayor scratched his head, called for his secretary, and dictated the following:

"Dear ———,

"Replying to your postcard of October 14th, addressed to the Mayor of Texarkana, Texas, I wish to advise that I do not know just what information you want on the Mayor, but inasmuch as you have not stated what kind of information I will state the Mayor is about five feet nine inches tall; weighs about 185 pounds; has cat eyes; used to have brown hair, now getting grey; used to have plenty of it, now getting bald; about 47 years old, but still young; married, but you can't tell it; owns a little property, not much; pays a lot of taxes; looks like the devil and acts worse.

"Any further information concerning the Mayor will be furnished you on application with your request in more detail."

Are You Proud of Your Livestock?

AN appeal has been sent out by the Officers of the International Live Stock Exposition to all civic-minded Chicagoans, and especially to those in the muncipal service, to co-operate in maintaining this annual event as one of our chief assets.

For years this institution has maintained Chicago's undisputed rank as the Agricultural Capital of the nation. Now other cities are attempting to rival us by introducing similar shows and enthusiastically supporting them as civic assets.

Put your shoulder to the wheel and keep us right out in front.

Extract from "*Monthly Bulletin*," Chicago Municipal Employees' Society,

Taxicabs for Topers

WHEN a citizen of Tulsa had passed a cheerful evening he was apt to find himself faced with two unpleasant alternatives—either to drive his own car home, a performance which involved danger to himself and to other users of the streets, or to go home in a taxicab, with the tiresome prospect of having to return next day to fetch his car from the scene of the party. The enterprise of two men has removed this bugbear. The cheerful guest has now only to go to the telephone, ring up one of the taxicab lines and murmur the words "Blotto service, please." Soon a cab arrives with two employees of the company. One drives the guest home in the taxicab, while the other follows behind at the wheel of the guest's own car. At the cost of a double fare much risk and inconvenience has been avoided. The scheme has the fullest support of the local police, and will probably, if successful, be extended to other American cities.

WHILE several important matters have formed the subject of negotiation within the past month, in none of them has decisions been reached which can be reported in this month's issue. These negotiations have concerned Whitley Councils, the Compulsory Superannuation Bill and Salary Scales. It may be well, however, to explain the position.

Whitley Council

Provisionally January 27 has been fixed for the first meeting of our National Whitley Council. The difficulty which we have met with in connection with this matter arises from the attitude of the County Council's Association. That Association has not yet appointed its four representatives, and there is grave doubt about its doing so. It was most unfortunate that, at a meeting of the Association in September when the matter came up, and the draft constitution was submitted for approval, not one of the four county councillors on the preparatory committee was present to move the approval of the draft and the appointment of representatives. The meeting, therefore, decided to remit the question to the various affiliated county councils for their opinion. The position, therefore, is that at the proposed meeting on January 27 no representatives from the County Councils' Association will be present. It will be for the Whitley Council itself to decide what action should be taken. One proposal is that we approach four of the larger county councils and ask each to send a representative. Another is that we send a deputation to the County Councils' Association; and a third is that we simply carry on without the county councils. The members of N.A.L.G.O. will be anxious, however, to have the county councils represented, if at all possible.

Compulsory Superannuation Bill

The divisional secretary has paid several visits to the Scottish Office concerning this measure and has had conversations with the officials concerned. A new point has recently arisen. It concerns the calculation of previous service of those authorities admitted to schemes, authorities such as library committees and joint water boards. Can the previous service with such authorities be reckoned for superannuation purposes? Until recently, the question has not been in dispute and it has been the practice to reckon such service. The Secretary of State has now, however, expressed the view that a librarian is not entitled to reckon his previous service with a library committee. The Scottish Office letter points out that "local authority" as defined in Section 31 (2) (b) of the Superannuation Act of 1922 for the purpose of the application of the Act to Scotland does not include a library committee. The divisional secretary contends that in terms of Section 5 (3) of the Act, such an officer, once admitted, is to be entitled to the benefit of the Act as if he were an officer of the admitting local authority and that this wording is sufficient to convey the obvious intention of the Statute. This is a matter which will require to be looked into further. If the opinion expressed by the Scottish Office is sound, then something must be done in the proposed Amending Bill to rectify matters. Clearly, it is not the intention of the Act to place the Scottish Officers in a less favourable position than their English colleagues.

Scottish Notes

Salary Scales—Lanarkshire

Just as these notes were being written a letter reached the divisional secretary from the county clerk of Lanark containing the welcome news that the sub-committee on grading has now completed its task of reviewing the general grading scheme and formulating a scheme for posts outwith the general grading scheme. The letter adds that a copy of the latter scheme will be forwarded as soon as it is completed. Until the sub-committee's report has been submitted to the staffing committee, we are not in a position to report its contents. It is rumoured that, for the bulk of the staff, the report will not be unfavourable, but that is all we can say at the moment.

Dumfries

Following on the negotiations in Dumfries, the sub-committee has now placed its recommendations before the finance committee and these have been adopted by that committee. We understand, however, that at the last meeting of the town council the finance committee's recommendations were delayed for further consideration and that a special meeting of the town council is being held to consider the scales.

Ayrshire

The executive of the branch met some time ago and discussed at some length the numerous salary anomalies in the county council's scales. It was agreed that application should be made to the county council for new grades, and it was left with the chairman and the divisional secretary to prepare a scheme of grading and send it to the various chief officials for their observations. After these observations had been received, it was decided that the executive should again meet to consider the exact nature of the application to the county council. At the moment of writing, the draft scales are in the hands of the chief officials and the divisional secretary is endeavouring to arrange for an early meeting.

Annual Meetings

It may seem somewhat late in the day to report annual meetings, but a word or two may be said about four meetings which were held in the latter half of December—just a little too late for last month's issue.

The first of these was that of the **Stirling and District** Branch. There was a good attendance over which the president, Mr. John McMichael, LL.B., town clerk of Callander, presided. The annual report submitted by the hon. secretary, Mr. J. Easton Smail, was most encouraging. It showed an increase of 35 in the membership. The present office-bearers were all re-elected.

Next evening **Aberdeen** held its annual meeting, over which Mr. A. J. McIntosh, B.Sc., presided. There also an excellent report was submitted. It showed an increase of 30 in the membership and commented on the great success of the Annual Conference held in the city in May last. After the formal business, an interesting address was delivered by Treasurer Morrison on Whitleyism. The treasurer is the town council's representative on the National Whitley Committee and his address showed that he had a thorough grasp of the principles of Whitleyism. After the meeting, the members met in a social capacity when a presentation was made to Mr. John Bishop, who after many years' excellent service has retired from the office of honorary secretary.

Next day the **North of Scotland** Branch held its annual meeting in Inverness, when Mr. Bewglas, the president, occupied the chair. The annual report submitted by the honorary secretary, Mr. Stanley H. H. Wilson, showed an increase of 40 in the membership. The present office-bearers were re-elected. The divisional secretary addressed the meeting.

The last of the meetings was that of **Perth** Branch, at which Mr. Langlands presided. The annual report submitted by Mr. A. A. Warner, the honorary secretary, was of a gratifying nature. Good progress had been made with a superannuation scheme for the burgh, and the branch had increased its membership. The divisional secretary addressed the meeting and answered a number of questions.

Dundee Branch

The Marryat Hall presented a gay appearance on January 15, on the occasion of the annual whist drive and dance of Dundee branch.

A company of 300 included Lord Provost Phin, the Lady Provost, and Miss Sharp, Bailie Blackwood and Mrs. Blackwood, Councillor Caldwell and party, Councillor D. M. Christie and party, Councillor J. W. Christie and Mrs. Christie, Councillor Powrie and Mrs. Powrie, Councillor L. Kidd, Mr. J. B. Thomson (president of the branch), Mrs. Thomson, and Miss Thomson, Mr. W. H. Sagar (convener of the committee) and Mrs. Sagar, Mr. S. E. F. Reid (chairman of the branch) and Miss Reid, and many other officials.

The prizes were presented by Miss Sharp and Bailie Blackwood congratulated the committee on the arrangements for the function.

EASTERN DISTRICT

WEEK-END SCHOOL

at

CAMBRIDGE

20th/21st March, 1937

Arrangements have been made to hold a week-end school for a maximum number of thirty, in Peterhouse, the oldest college in Cambridge.

Fee 15/- inclusive; but rebates may be made in approved cases and grants given towards cost of fares.

Ask your

BRANCH EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT FOR FULL PARTICULARS

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED BY RADIO

Professor Hilton on November 19 broadcast a warning to all intending students concerning correspondence colleges. The warning was to the effect that while there are many good and reliable colleges teaching by correspondence, there are many others that are merely colleges —by name only. He specially warned intending students against these so-called colleges, who rented a couple of rooms in a large building in a well-known street, who made great promises that they did not intend to fulfil, and claimed successes they could not prove, and who used the names of prominent men who were in no way connected or working with the college.

NOTICE. The accompanying picture is taken from a photograph of The Bennett College, which has been established over 30 years. We have a permanent staff of over 190 people on the College premises. Our Professional Staff have all passed their examinations, and our tutors are all experts in their own specialised work. We do not send out any homework to be corrected by tired, spare time tutors. All students' homework is corrected on the College premises the same day that it arrives, and is returned by evening post. This College is Technical, General and Commercial, thus enabling us to cater for all requirements.

This is an entirely British College. Most of our text books are written on the College premises by our own professional staff, especially for tutorial purposes. Our tutors specialise in teaching students for the examinations they themselves have already passed.

THERE is NO OTHER COLLEGE in this KINGDOM that can CLAIM all the ABOVE ADVANTAGES

We have seating accommodation for over 10,000, but it is not necessary for students to attend the College; we can send exactly the same tuition to you by post for a reasonable fee, payable monthly.

Anyone who reads the journals knows that there are many things advertised that one can study, and any kind of study is good. It is training for the brain, but the best thing to study, surely, is a course specially prepared to teach your own vocation, or prepare you for the examination which you have in view.

Knowing that you are a master of your job gives you self-confidence and personality, but a Diploma from a College is absolute proof of your efficiency. We have agencies in all English-speaking corners of the world. The nature of our business makes us keep in touch with employment requirements in all parts of the world, therefore we specialise in preparing students for the good positions which we know exist, and for all the worthwhile examinations.

We are prepared to produce, on demand, over 10,000 unsolicited testimonials from successful students, or, in default, we will hand over £100 to charity.

The above vast ORGANISATION can have been CREATED only by the SUCCESS of our STUDENTS

There is a tide in the affairs of man which, if taken at the flood, leads on to fortune and success. There are three things which come not back, the sped arrow, the spoken word, and the lost opportunity.

This is your opportunity. If it is your desire to make progress and establish yourself in a good career, write to us for free particulars on any subject which interests you, or, if your career is not decided, write and tell us of your likes and dislikes, and we will give you practical advice as to the possibilities of a vocation and how to succeed in it. You will be under no obligation whatever. It is our pleasure to help. We never take students for courses unless we feel satisfied they are suitable.

Do not forget that success is not the prerogative of the brilliant. Our experience of over 30 years proves that THE WILL TO SUCCEED achieves more than outstanding brilliancy.

LET ME BE YOUR FATHER

Let me tell you how to make a success of your career.
If your future is undecided or appears unsatisfactory, let us talk it over together.
I want to help, and it will cost you nothing to get my help, you will be under no obligation whatever.

HOW TO STUDY

In your spare time when it suits YOU. You fix your own time, you do not GO to your studies, the postman brings THEM TO YOU. There is nothing that a class-room teacher can show on a blackboard that we cannot show on a white paper. The lesson on a blackboard will be cleaned off, but our lessons are PERMANENT. A class-room teacher cannot give you a private word of encouragement, but a Correspondence Tutor can do so whenever your work deserves it. On the other hand, he can, where necessary, point out your mistakes PRIVATELY.

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What You Think

Our Readers' Opinions

Correspondence is invited, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents. No letter will be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the sender, but a nom de plume may be sent for publication. The Editor wishes to devote space to all the letters which he receives for publication, but he cannot do this unless correspondents will make their letters "short and sweet." He reserves to himself the right to shorten letters, so as to publish more of all rather than much of a few.

FUTURE OF STATE EDUCATION

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—Mr. Fraser's letter in the January issue is interesting. In his book, *Education and the Social Order,* the Hon. Bertrand Russell makes the following statement:

"Citizens as conceived by governments are persons who admire the *status quo* and are prepared to exert themselves for its preservation."

Does Mr. Fraser think that, too, is crooked thinking? Historically, I believe it is true. Speaking for myself, I must state that many of the ideas in my mind are there in spite of State education. *Perverse propaganda, maybe.*

Mr. Fraser seems to conceive Education as a process of teaching the child from five years of age to fourteen. But what of the ideas held by the child before it reaches the school, and the ideas formed after leaving school? Is State education not a process going on in our midst from the cradle to the grave? And the kind of it very much dependent on the type of State we are living in, and the class that is ruling us? In the past that has been so. Recently we see Education differing widely in various world States, e.g. Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, the U.S.A., and our own country.

What constitutes straight or correct thinking? Is it not the case that the great majority of scholars are not taught to think correctly? That most of them do not think for themselves but are "intellectual sheep," ready to follow others even to their own destruction?

Can Mr. Fraser be sure there *is a future* for a state where that result of scholastic education exists?

The Herbartians assert that thinking is a process of *perception, conception,* and *apperception* through the five senses. Max Muller declares we could not *think or reason* without names or terms. But again terms mean different ideas to different persons. Trade Unionism, for instance, is a good thing in my opinion for us, but I know members of local authorities who are associated collectively in employers' organisations and who cannot understand why we should organise collectively. Can education elucidate that state of mind? Or is that mental state the reflex of the other State responsible for their education?

JOHN M. SCOTT.

Dundee.
11. 1. 37.

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—In the concluding paragraph of his letter in your last issue, Mr. Fraser makes a suggestion to which I should like to respond.

There must be many who agree with your correspondent's criticism of the existing system of State education; in fact, it is erroneous to call it a system at all, there being so many gaps and loose ends in its structure.

Mr. Fraser's principal criticism is that normal children are being educated on "mass production" lines. This is to a large extent true, and the fault lies at the door of the examination system which has the tendency of moulding all children to the pattern of the examination. So long as school children are being educated up to the standard required by the respective examinations, so long will they be deprived of that freedom of expression which is essential to their full development. And, until something can be found to take the place of the examination system, the evil will continue to exist.

Another major defect is the absence of a unified method of instruction. It is surprising what varying methods exist even amongst the schools in the area of one local authority, as, for example, in the teaching of arithmetic. A unification of method would do much to make the transfer of a child from one school to another, or from one department to another, as least noticeable to the child as possible.

Reform in State education has been engaging the attention of those people responsible for many years, but their efforts have been retarded by several considerations, not the least of them being the religious question. The value of the raising of the school leaving age by one year has to a large extent been nullified by tackling it from the industrial instead of from the purely educational standpoint.

If "great educational reforms are only brought about in response to pressing social needs" (Professor Lancelot Hogben to the higher education members of the N.U.T., December 30, 1936), there are enough social problems extant to give a great impetus to a thorough educational reform.

It is, moreover, urgent that we realise the importance of education in building up a democratic and peace-loving state.

Yours, etc.,

F. A. BRISTOW.

Reigate.
8. 1. 37.

THANK YOU

The sum of £5 has been received from the acting master, matron, and officers of the Bucklow Institution, Knutsford, being the proceeds of a dance held on January 8, 1937, in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

Contributions of this nature have now been made by the master for some years, and his efforts are warmly appreciated by the **North Cheshire Branch** local executive committee.

PAST PRESIDENT IN MOTOR ACCIDENT

Crash on Porlock Hill

On December 30, Sir Arthur P. Johnson, Lady Johnson and their daughter, Miss Florence Johnson, were returning from Exmoor to Porlock Weir by car when, after rounding the first hairpin bend at the top of Porlock Hill, the driver found that the brakes would not act. To check the car, he drove it alongside the bank, but it descended the one-in-four gradient at considerable speed, cut across the bottom hairpin bend, ran into an open car park, up the bank at the far side, and came to rest in an upright position with all the tyres burst.

Both Lady Johnson and Miss Florence Johnson were badly injured; in fact, Miss Johnson was taken to hospital with a suspected spine injury, but, fortunately, this proved to be an unfounded fear. She is, however, still confined to her bed in the hospital. Sir Arthur escaped with minor cuts and bruises, which, although painful, were not sufficiently serious to keep him to his bed. Our sympathy is extended to Sir Arthur and his family in their very trying ordeal; we congratulate them on their escape; and we trust that they will have a very speedy recovery, and will be none the worse for the severe shock which they have received.

KING GEORGE VI

Message to Civil Servants

The following Treasury Letter has been circulated.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
WHITEHALL, S.W.
December 14th, 1936.

SIR,—I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to convey, by the King's Command to all branches and members of the Civil Service of the United Kingdom, at home and overseas, the following message dated Saturday, December 12th, from His Majesty.

I desire, on my accession to the Throne to express to all grades of the Civil Service my appreciation of the ability and devotion with which they have always discharged their varied duties, whether at home or overseas.

The record of the British Civil Service is indeed unique, and I recognise with satisfaction the great position which its members have won for themselves in the life of the community. Its great traditions and those of the Dominions Services, of the Indian and the Colonial Services, are well known to me, and I am sure that I can depend on that spirit of steadfast devotion to duty which has at all times animated them.

Whatever difficulties may lie ahead, I know that I can rely on their lasting loyalty.

GEORGE R.I.

My Lords will be glad if all Departments of State will co-operate in the necessary action to ensure that His Majesty's message may be made known to everyone throughout the Service.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
N. F. WARREN FISHER.

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(1) Period over which repayments spread.	Minimum payment on signing Agreement (tax and insurance being paid separately).		
12 months	25 per cent.		
18 months	25 per cent.		
24 months	33⅓ per cent.		
(2) Percentage which will be added to balance outstanding to determine monthly payments.	12 months 6½%	18 months 9¾%	24 months 13%

The Scheme also applies to New Motor Cycles on the following terms:

(1) Maximum period over which repayments spread.	Minimum payment on signing Agreement (tax and insurance being paid separately).	
12 months	25 per cent.	
(2) Percentage which will be added to balance outstanding to determine monthly payments.	6 months 3¾%	12 months 6½%

FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR LOCAL CORRESPONDENT OR DIRECT FROM N.A.L.G.O., 24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

Movement of Members

Mr. W. H. BERRINGTON, Dewsbury, to Permanent Clerk of Works, Reading C.B.C.
Mr. JOHN FINNIGAN, South Shields, to Junior Engineering Assistant, Reading.
Mr. H. G. FRENCH, Middlesbrough, to Engineering Assistant, Berkshire C.C.
Mr. J. W. LAMB, Seaham Harbour, to Sunderland.
Mr. HARRISON SIMPSON, South Shields, to Engineering Assistant, Swindon.
Mr. W. THOMPSON, Middlesbrough, to Legal Assistant, Boston.
Mr. W. BOYTEN, London County Council, to Male Staff Nurse, Middlesex C.C.
Mr. R. T. WHYBREW, Saffron Walden B.C., to Engineer's Assistant, West Suffolk C.C.
Mr. A. W. GAUNT, Barking B.C., to Architectural Assistant, Wembley U.D.C.
Mr. HARRISON, Barking B.C., to Director of Education, Mansfield B.C.
Mr W. K. DIGBY, Kingston-on-Thames B.C., to Ealing B.C.
Miss M. O'SULLIVAN, Chislehurst and Sidcup U.D.C., to Health Visitor, Heston and Isleworth B.C.
Mr. W. H. GLASBY, Southend-on-Sea C.B.C., to Clerk, Electricity Department, Hornsey B.C.
Miss B. HOGG, Bedfordshire C.C., to Assistant Nurse, Hitchin Public Assistance Institution, Hertfordshire C.C.
Mr. H. W. KERR, Brentwood U.D.C., to Engineering Assistant, Croydon C.B.C.
Mr. F. C. SHELLEY, Brentwood U.D.C., to Financial Assistant, Westminster M.B.C.
Mr. R. E. DIXON, Brentwood U.D.C., to Committee Clerk, Friern Barnet U.D.C.
Mr. G. S. CARVER, Cambridgeshire C.C., to Surveyor's Clerk, Solihull U.D.C.
Mr. W. A. TAYLOR, Hendon B.C., to Library Assistant, St. Marylebone M.B.C.
Mr. C. R. AVES, Great Yarmouth C.B.C., to Surveyor's Clerk, Saffron Walden B.C.
Mr. D. G. WEBBER, Great Yarmouth C.B.C., to Audit Clerk, Doncaster C.B.C.
Mr. J. M. DRUMMOND, Great Yarmouth C.B.C., to Assistant Solicitor, Hastings C.B.C.
Mr. D. E. MILLS, Brentwood U.D.C., to Junior Clerk, Treasurer's Department, Hampstead M.B.C.
Mr. B. FINCH, Brentwood U.D.C., to Committee Clerk, Epsom and Ewell U.D.C.
Mr. G. TICKNER, Beckenham B.C., to Hackney M.B.C.
Mr. J. MUCKART, Mitcham B.C., to General Superintendent of Pleasure Ground, Erith U.D.C.
Mr. E. ALLEN, Kingston-on-Thames B.C., to Library Assistant, Watford B.C.
Miss E. A. PITE, Cambridgeshire C.C., to Nursing Staff, Derby C.B.C.
Mr. G. S. BROWN, Sutton and Cheam B.C., to Engineering Assistant, Eastbourne C.B.C.
Mr. J. COMPTON, Barking B.C., to Director of Education, Ealing B.C.
Mr. G. HAWES, Isle of Ely C.C., to Senior Clerk, Education Department, Cambridgeshire C.C.
Mr. R. D. BRIMMELL, Sutton and Cheam B.C., to Borough Surveyor, Ramsgate B.C.
Mr. J. COLMAN, Essex C.C., to Chief Clerk, Public Health Department, West Riding C.C.
Mr. G. W. A. MATTHEWS, Essex C.C., to Engineering Assistant, Croydon C.B.C.
Mr. J. N. WORLEDGE, Norfolk C.C., to Committee Clerk, Beckenham B.C.
Mr. J. B. STOREY, Wembley U.D.C., to Chief Engineering Assistant, Ipswich C.B.C.
Mr. R. E. GILMOUR, Wembley U.D.C., to Engineering Assistant, Eastbourne C.B.C.
Mr. G. J. RYDER, Hereford City, to Engineering Assistant, Chelmsford.
Mr. H. MORGAN, Swansea, to Accountancy Assistant, West Bromwich.
Mr. B. F. COOPER, Worcester, to Engineering Assistant, Stoke-on-Trent.
Mr. D. G. BROWN, Northampton, to a post in the Watford Institution, Hertford C.C.
Mr. A. E. LACEY, Northampton, to Housing Department, Malvern U.D.C.
Mr. N. F. COOPER, Notts C.C., to Clerk, Education Department, Southend-on-Sea.
Mr. H. G. EASTER, Burton-upon-Trent, to Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Birmingham.
Mr. P. MARTIN, Malvern, to Housing Manager, Newport (I.O.W.).
Mr. F. OLLIER, Stoke-on-Trent, to a post under the South Shields Corporation.
Mr. W. E. MOSES, Newport (Mon.), to Health Department, Erith U.D.C.
Mr. H. G. COLDRICK, Newport (Mon.), to Health Department, Southampton.
Mr. R. J. M. CONIBEAR, Newport (Mon.), to Borough Engineer's Department, Reading.
Mr. S. YATES, Wolverhampton, to Chief Clerk, Education Department, Guildford.
Mr. R. A. KIDD, Salop C.C., to Deputy County Surveyor, Derbyshire C.C.
Mr. F. DAVIS, Derbyshire C.C., to Senior Bridge Assistant, Warwick C.C.
Mr. W. J. HAWKINS, Merthyr Tydfil, to Sanitary Inspector, Barton-on-Humber U.D.C.
Mr. H. WAND, Kesteven C.C., to Surveyor's Clerk, Winchester.
Mr. W. ARCHER, Bradford, to Assistant Engineer's Department, Douglas B.C.
Mr. J. D. BOLTON, Stanley (Yorks), to Ashington U.D.C.
Mr. W. BOOTH, Bradford, to Engineer's Dept., Northampton.
Mr. W. BROOM, Bradford, to Engineer's Dept., Washington (Durham) Council.
Miss C. DEAN, Halifax, to Frog Lane Institution, Wigan C.B.
Mr. P. D. MITCHELL FEARNLEY, West Riding C.C., to Surveying Assistant, Sale Borough Council.
Miss M. P. JONES, Batley, to Health Visitor, Oxford.
Mr. T. A. LYNAM, Dewsbury, to Engineering Assistant, Walsall C.B.
Mr. L. PERKINS, Bradford, to Electricity Dept., Liverpool City Council.
Mr. R. H. HILL, Sheffield, to Engineering Assistant, Blackburn C.B.
Mr. H. SOUTHALL, Birkenhead, to Electricity Commercial Manager, Watford.
Mr. A. H. BEDDING, Birkenhead, to Audit Department, Finchley.
Mr. I. L. JAMES, Birkenhead, Housing Dept., Liverpool C.B.
Mr. L. R. GODFREY, Carlisle, to Dis. Sanitary Inspector, Oxford C.B.
Mr. H. C. ROWLEY, St. Helens, to Deputy City Engineer, Peterborough B.
Mr. H. B. ROBINSON, St. Helens, to Surveyor, Skipton R.D.C.
Mr. J. A. DODWORTH, Bolton, to Eng. Assistant, Accrington B.
Mr. T. N. MITCHELL, St. Helens, to Senior Architect, Derby B.
Mr. R. S. IRELAND, Lancaster, to Asst. Surveyor's Dept., Nuneaton.
Mr. J. COCKFIELD, Tyldesley, to Clerk to the Council, Ennerdale R.D.C.
Mr. J. H. WOOD, Keighley, to Eng. Assistant, Burnley C.B.
Mr. E. LONGBOTTOM, Birkenhead, to Gas Department, Chesterfield.
Miss E. HART, Manchester, to Health Visitor, Hornsey M.B.
Mr. F. HALLIWELL, Wigan, to Building Inspector, Urmston U.D.C.
Mr. P. ROYLE, Southport, to Accountancy Assistant, W. Bromwich.
Mr. K. SMITH, Southport, to Deputy Engineer, Litherland U.D.C.
Mr. J. ALLEN, Southport, to Showroom Manager, Electricity Dept., Bury C.B.
Mr. H. A. HAMMOND, Hants C.C., to Male Attendant, Flax Bourton, Somerset C.C.
Mr. R. P. HARRIS, Haslemere, to Engineering Asst., Penzance B.
Mr. G. V. GETHIN, Portsmouth, to Engineering Asst., Darwen.
Mr. H. M. COOPER, Portsmouth, to Engineering Asst., Birkenhead.
Mr. W. HERSON, Folkestone, to Deputy Accountant, Bebington and Bromboro'.
Mr. R. H. JENKINS, Portslade, to Asst. Accountant, Sheppey R.
Mr. H. D. BUDGE, Devon C.C., to Asst. Librarian, E. Suffolk C.C.
Mr. F. G. DOBSON, Mid-Surrey (Br.), to Clerk, Luton B.
Mr. N. P. V. GUY, Fareham, to Engineering Asst., Portsmouth.
Mr. D. STRUGNELL, Fareham, to General Clerk, Hornchurch U.
Mr. W. LAING, Bognor Regis, to Engineering Asst., Hornchurch U.
Mr. J. H. SMELLIE, Fareham, to Asst. San. Insp., Burnley C.B.
Mr. L. E. KING, Southwick, to Sanitary Inspector, Margate B.
Mr. F. J. EDGAR, Exeter, to Registrar of Births and Deaths, Bournemouth.
Mr. R. SLATER, Exeter, to Architectural Asst., Bolton.
Mr. A. K. HADFIELD, Kent, to Asst. Master, Wellhouse Hosp., Barnet, Hertfordshire.
Mr. E. A. LASI, Kent, to Clerk, Dartford.
Mr. A. GOODSON, Berks C.C., to Clerk, Reading C.B.
Mr. F. J. YOUNG, Wilts C.C., to Lyndhurst P.A. Institution, Hants C.C.

(Continued from next column.)

of the Committee as the provision in the rules requiring the National Executive Council to nominate the members of the Committee will cease to operate this year, and in future the Council will nominate only four members, and the remaining four members will need to be nominated in accordance with rules 75 and 76. Arising out of the consideration of this matter the Committee has decided to recommend the next annual general meeting to approve of two members of the Committee being elected annually for a period of four years, and for those members receiving the largest number of votes to continue for the longest periods.

The members of the Committee will be elected by ballot amongst those present and entitled to vote at the annual general meeting to be held at Margate on Tuesday, May 18th next.

Nalgo Building Society

Better Terms for Mortgages

The Committee of Management has recently given an important decision regarding mortgages granted on property not required for the personal occupation of a member. In the past the rate of interest for such mortgages has always been ¼ per cent. higher than the usual rates, and the normal maximum advance has been 85 per cent. of the value or the purchase price whichever the lower. During 1936 it was decided to cease charging the additional ¼ per cent. interest as from January 1st this year on old and new mortgages, but in future the normal maximum advance will be 90 per cent. It is hoped this will encourage members who already own or contemplate buying properties for investment purposes to transact their business with the Nalgo Building Society.

Many members of the Society who have received advances qualified on January 1st for a reduction of ¼ per cent. in the rate of interest as a result of having reduced the principal outstanding to two-thirds of the value of the property. This guaranteed reduction has proved a great appeal to members and induced a number to make a special repayment of principal before the close of the year in order to obtain the reduction.

The Society experienced another year of record progress during 1936. The advances to members during the year amounted to nearly £900,000, showing an increase of £130,000. This success is due to excellent facilities offered for house purchase and the added confidence which members have in dealing with their "own Society."

Free Advertising Service

Below are given details of properties for sale under the Society's special scheme for assisting those members who desire to dispose of property which is mortgaged to the Society.

WEST WICKHAM (Kent).—Freehold semi-detached house. 2 reception-rooms, 3 bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. Garage. Plot 200 ft. by 30 ft. Wide concrete road. Pleasantly situated adjoining West Wickham and Hayes Common. Built 3 years ago. Price £640. Apply Box HPB No. 18, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

GUESTLING near HASTINGS (Sussex).—Well built attractive detached semi-bungalow. Excellent condition. Panoramic sea and country view. 4 good rooms, kitchen, bathroom, large convertible room, wash-house, garage. Ample water supply, electricity, gas, etc. Splendid garden, greenhouse (vinery peach house). Freehold. Plot 70 ft. by 255 ft. 3 miles from town. Frequent bus service. Price £1,100 or nearest offer. Apply Box HPB No. 19, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Annual General Meeting

The Committee of Management has had under consideration the future constitution

(Continued in previous column.)

Salaries and Service Conditions

Superannuation

Whitby U.D.C. has decided to obtain an actuarial valuation.

Salaries

The **Stourbridge** Borough Council has adopted the Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Whitley Council scale of salaries for its staff; this scale, subject to minor alterations, has also been adopted by the **Oldbury** Borough Council.

As a result of representations made to **Liverpool** City Council regarding the salary scale of health visitors, an improved scale consisting of a higher commencing salary with annual increments instead of biennial increments is now in operation.

Increases of salary have been awarded to two members of the staff of the **Honley** Urban District Council following representations made by the divisional secretary.

As a result of representations made by the divisional secretary the **Hampton** U.D.C. has adopted scales of salaries for the staff which represent a satisfactory improvement on previously existing conditions.

Temporary Officers Made Permanent

With the growth of the electric supply department and the city housing estates, **Liverpool,** the employment in certain capacities of individuals of a mature age became imperative, whilst the work upon which they were engaged could not in any way be regarded as temporary. Representations on their behalf were made, with the result that a large number of officials (both male and female) of the city treasurer's department were appointed with the consequential advantages of permanent status.

Conditions of Appointment

An application submitted on behalf of the gas showroom manager at **Ripon** has resulted in a satisfactory rearrangement of the conditions of his appointment.

Departmental Administration

An inquiry into matters connected with the administration of the libraries department at **Wallsend** which the divisional secretary attended on behalf of the members concerned, concluded on a satisfactory basis.

Service Conditions

Negotiations have been proceeding for some considerable time with the **North-Eastern County Boroughs Joint Board for the Mentally Defective** in connexion with rates of pay and service conditions generally. These efforts were brought to a successful conclusion when the divisional secretary met the finance committee at West Hartlepool on January 13, and our members at Prudhoe will benefit by the concessions awarded.

Whitleyism

A conference of representatives of local authorities and staff organisations in the North-Eastern area, convened by the town clerk of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sir Arthur M. Oliver, was held in the Council Chamber, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Friday, January 15, 1937. Alderman Sir Arthur Lambert presided, and the representatives were accorded a civic welcome by the Lord Mayor, Alderman J. Grantham, J.P. There was a large and representative attendance and the draft constitution, which had been prepared by a special committee, was submitted for approval.

After discussion on some of the more important aspects of Whitleyism, the conference resolved that a North-Eastern Whitley Council be set up and approved arrangements for the election of representatives of local authorities and staff organisations. Sir Arthur M. Oliver was authorised to convene in due course the first meeting of the Whitley Council, which will cover the area of the counties of Durham and Northumberland and the Cleveland District of Yorkshire, and the interest displayed at this conference should assure its future success.

Staff Reorganisation

The **Blyth** Town Council recently approved a report of its trade, commerce and establishment committee on staff reorganisation and centralisation of departments. Despite a strong protest from the Association, which was represented by the organising secretary and the divisional secretary at an interview with the council, the recommendations were approved. As a result, loss of status and reductions in salary were suffered by three members of the staff. The director of education being one of the officers involved, the Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education also made representations, and a deputation was received from that Association. Throughout the negotiations the two Associations acted in collaboration.

1937 BEANO SENT TO PRESS

6 Tons of Paper to be Used for First Printing

FIRST LIST OF PRIZEWINNERS

We are glad to be able to print this month further news of 1937 Beano, together with first list of prize-winners.

Local Government Service readers will be interested to know that the first order for printing will take over six tons of paper, and that while they are reading this issue, this paper is being turned into (what Dr. Alexander, the Hon. Editor calls) the best "bobsworth" that any Nalgoite can buy.

This year Beano has a definite Local Government flavour, and it will appeal to all members of Nalgo alike.

Some of the illustrations are particularly apt, and we are hoping in the next issue to review Beano in detail.

Publishing date is to be early March, and we hope that every member will buy a copy and help the B. & O. Fund to bring in much needed augmentation of funds.

FIRST PRIZEWINNERS.

Section A. R. W. Lee, Town Hall, Catford, S.E.6.

Section B. F. N. B. Appleton, Treasurer's Dept., Southport.

Section C. R. Burton, 84, St. Andrew's Avenue, Ashton, Preston.

Section D. J. Hill Johnson, 42, Moormead Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Section E. A. H. Elven, Finance Dept., Surbiton, Surrey.

The Isle of Thanet Branch has been fortunate in securing prizes to the value of over £100 for an interesting and unique competition. This is one of the attractive features in Beano, and if you are good at remembering places, it should be quite easy for **you** to secure a prize. Make sure of your copy of Beano as soon as it is published.

New Sports Badge

The above is a full-size reproduction of the new Nalgo Sports Badge approved by the National Executive Council. The design is composed of the crest of the Association embroidered in N.A.L.G.O. colours—red, white and light blue on dark blue. The cost of the badge is 2s. 6d., and it can be supplied from Headquarters.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:
24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance" "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities."

Telephone: WHItehall 9351 (6 lines). Telegrams: Natassoc Parl. London.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers:

JANUARY 8

1/BO/37
(To certain branch secretaries.)
Regarding the sale of "Beano," 1936.

2/ED/37
(To each branch secretary and education correspondent.)
Concerning co-operation with the Workers' Educational Association and enclosing full particulars.

3/ED/37
(To each branch secretary and education correspondent.)
Regarding the Association's Sister-Tutor Scholarship and enclosing a notice for display.

4/ORG/37
(To each branch secretary.)
Regarding the attendance of local government officers at Territorial Army Camps

6/BS/47
(To each Building Society local correspondent.)
(a) Regarding the payment of commission and postage expenses.
(b) Giving particulars of the Society's progress during 1936.
(c) Regarding advances on property not required for personal occupation.
(d) Asking whether supplies of new literature are required.

7/LOG/37
(To each Logomia local correspondent.)
(a) Enclosing copy of a Life Assurance circular for circulation among the members of the branch and setting out form for requisitioning further copies.
(b) Thanking local correspondents for their assistance during the past year.

JANUARY 11

5/SA/37
(To each branch secretary.)
(a) Concerning the increase in the fees payable for residence at the Holiday Centres and Cefn y Mynach Private Hotel and enclosing supply of new booking forms.
(b) Giving details of improvements being made at Croyde Bay Centre.
(c) Stating that a new booklet describing the Holiday Centres will shortly be available.
(d) Enclosing supply of pamphlets relating to the reunions of campers and cruisers in London and Leeds.

8/GEN/37
(To each branch secretary.)
Regarding the lack of replies to circulars from Headquarters asking for information from branches.

9/GEN/37
(To each branch secretary.)
Concerning the proposed Death Benefit Scheme and asking for the observations of branches by January 31 at the latest.

10/GEN/37
(To each branch secretary.)
Enclosing a copy of the index to volume XVI of "Local Government Service."

IMPORTANT DATES

February 13.—Holiday Centres and Cruises Reunion in London.
February 26.—Holiday Centres and Cruises Reunion in Leeds.
February 28.—Branches to remit all moneys due to the Association to Headquarters.

HOLIDAY CENTRES AND CRUISES

REUNION

NOW
is the time to
BUY YOUR TICKET
2/6 each

- **LONDON** (7 p.m.-12 p.m.)
  AT HARRODS, KNIGHTSBRIDGE
  SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 1937
- **LEEDS** (8 p.m. - 1 a.m.)
  AT THE TOWN HALL, LEEDS
  FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 1937

Tickets from Nalgo Special Activities Dept.
24, Abingdon St., Westminster, S.W.1,
and from Branch Secretaries

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost-of-living index for the past six months: August, 46; September, 47; October, 48; November, 51; December, 51; January, 51. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the index figure is based are as follow:

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Food	36	36	36
Rent	59	59	59
Clothing ..	90	90	95
Fuel and Light..	75	75	80
Other Items ..	70	70	70

MARGATE CONFERENCE

Dates to Remember

March 1.—Return (Form C1) of names and addresses of representatives to Conference to be received at headquarters by 5 p.m.
March 1.—Nominations for election of N.E.C. to be received at headquarters by 5 p.m. (Form EL1.)
March 1.—Nominations for honorary officers to be received at headquarters by 5 p.m.
March 1.—Motions for Conference to be received at headquarters by 5 p.m.
March 1.—Invitations for venue of Conference 1938, to be received at headquarters by 5 p.m.
March 15.—Nominees for election of N.E.C. may withdraw up to 5 p.m. on this date.
April 1.—Journal will contain Conference agenda.
April 1.—Report of the N.E.C. to be issued to representatives with agenda.
April 15.—Amendments to motions in Conference agenda to be received at headquarters by 5 p.m.
April 15.—Voting papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of branch secretaries.
April 17.—Voting papers for honorary officers to be in hands of branch secretaries.
April 17.—Voting papers for venue of Annual Conference to be in hands of branch secretaries.
April 23.—Voting papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of members.
May 1.—Voting papers to be in hands of secretary of district committee.
May 1.—Journal will contain amendments to motions in Conference agenda.
May 1.—Conference agenda (containing motions and amendments thereto) and list of representatives to be forwarded to representatives.
May 1.—Branches desiring to divide voting strength at Conference to notify headquarters of allocation.
May 1.—Voting papers for honorary officers to be returned to headquarters.
May 1.—Voting papers for venue of Conference to be returned to headquarters.
May 2.—Counting of votes for N.E.C. commences in each district.
May 15.—Whit Saturday. First day of Conference proceedings.
May 17.—Whit Monday (Bank Holiday). Second day of Conference proceedings.

For
Cold Winds

Woollen Muffler - - - 6/-
Art Silk Square - - - - 7/-
Flannel Scarf - - - - - 4/6
in **N.A.L.G.O.** colours.

Do you wear a Nalgo tie?

All colours obtainable from Nalgo Special Activities Dept., 24, Abingdon St., S.W.1

ORDER FORM

"A CENTURY OF MUNICIPAL PROGRESS" Price £1 1 0

To the GENERAL SECRETARY, N.A.L.G.O.,
24, Abingdon Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

"... must imperatively be read by every local government officer, high or low, as the indispensable basis of his professional culture"—SIDNEY WEBB.

Please send me.....copy(ies) of "A Century of Municipal Progress" for which I am enclosing a remittance for £ : :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Editorial Offices: 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Telephone: Whitehall 9351 (6 lines). Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration. No payment will be made for contributions unless they are specially requested by the Editor. Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed. Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly. All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Advertisement Offices: A. Darby's Advertising Service, 24-26, Water Lane, London, E.C.4, to whom all advertisement communications should be addressed. Replies to Box Nos. must be sent to A. Darby's Advertising Service. Telephones: City 6686 and 6687. Telegrams: Darbiads, Cent, London.

Abuse of Privilege

WE have known for a long time that the paid organisers of trade unions catering for employees in local government have endeavoured to use their positions as members of town councils to benefit their trade unions by using their public positions as a means of recruiting members for their unions from amongst the employees of those town councils.

Scratch the skin of any of these fellows and underneath will be found the propagandist. It is not often one does expose so naively this practice as the secretary of the Stockton Branch of the National Union of Public Employees. We publish in another column extracts from a circular letter which he was responsible for sending to the members of the staff of the Stockton Corporation.

We are not complaining so much about the competition for members, for it would be a very bad day when other organisations ceased to compete with N.A.L.G.O. for the membership of local government officers. When N.A.L.G.O. has something to fear from competition it will be a sign that N.A.L.G.O. is not delivering the goods. It does not object to legitimate competition, but the instance which has given rise to these comments raises an issue much deeper than competition for membership. It does not actually state the fact, but it implies that a privileged position will be used for attaining material benefits for those persons who can produce a certain trade union ticket.

Violation of the Law ?

N.A.L.G.O.'s attitude to this question was admirably stated by the chairman of the National Executive Council—Mr. W. W. Armitage—at the annual conference held last year at Aberdeen, from which we quote the following passage :—

> "We have been told that if we affiliate [with the Trades Union Congress] we shall receive the assistance of Labour members on local authorities in our various applications for betterment of service conditions. That is a point on which it is not wise to generalise. We rather resent the underlying imputation contained in that statement, and we rate the honour and integrity of the average Labour representatives very much higher than that."

The question which comes to our mind is how near does action of this kind come to a violation of the law.

In the Local Government Act, 1933, Section 76 states :

> "If a member of a local authority has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or proposed contract or other matter, and is present at a meeting of the local authority at which the contract or other matter is the subject of consideration, he shall at the meeting, as soon as practicable after the commencement thereof, disclose the fact, and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of, or vote on any question with respect to, the contract or other matter."

No Moral Difference

There is, admittedly, a legal difference between a member of a local authority using his privileged position to gain pecuniary benefit from the ratepayers and a member of a local authority using his privileged position to secure new members from amongst the employees of the council, but, fundamentally, there is no moral difference, and it is about time that the Government checked this type of abuse just as it has endeavoured to check the other type by Section 76 of the Local Government Act, 1933.

Right to Private Opinion

N.A.L.G.O. endeavours to preserve the integrity of public administration ; it strongly deprecates any officer disclosing or showing his party political convictions. All that N.A.L.G.O. asks in return is fair treatment and the privilege for its members to act as ordinary citizens as regards the use of the ballot box.

Sir Samuel Hoare, First Lord of the Admiralty, made this point perfectly clear in reply to a question in the House of Commons on January 19 last. During the debate on the position of the men who had been summarily dismissed from the Admiralty Dockyard, he said :

> "As the question of the right hon. member deals with an exceptional and important case, the House will, I hope, permit me to deal with it in a somewhat lengthy answer. The men connected with this question have not been discharged because of their political views. Any employee in the dockyards can hold what political views he wishes. His opinions are his personal affair. As long as his work is satisfactory and his politics neither interfere with it nor lead to courses that will endanger the Navy and the State, there never has been, nor should there be, any interference with him . . ."

Keep Officers Out of Party Controversies

What we desire is that the service conditions of public officers shall be determined on their merits and not upon their allegiance to any political or quasi-political organisation. Public servants should not be dragged into the cockpit of party political controversies, for they must either remain silent, take all mud that is slung and bow down under all the innuendoes that will be deduced from their silence, or else they must answer their critics and thus be accused of taking sides, with the consequence that the other parties will have no faith in their declaration of impartiality.

Concede Our Demand

Such a standard demands of all public officers the exercise of the maximum discretion in giving voice or effect to their political opinions, so that he who runs may read that they are acting in accordance with the privileges of private citizenship and not as public officers.

Again we reiterate our unqualified demand that public officers must be kept out of party politics, and this demand is based upon our desire to preserve and to promote the interests of democracy and to ensure the peaceful expansion of those social services which we know are essential to the health, the happiness, the welfare, and the progress of the community. Nothing less than a full concession of this demand will satisfy the Association, and nothing less than a full observance of all that it implies will secure elementary justice for the ratepayers of Great Britain.

Here, There and Everywhere

By "UBIQUITOUS"

IN THE METROPOLIS

Improvement in library staff salaries was recorded in **Lambeth** Branch annual report

* * *

A thoroughly enjoyable time was spent by the nineteen members of **Staines** Branch who attended a dinner at the Strand Palace Hotel, London, on January 15, and afterwards split up into three theatre parties.

* * *

Poplar Branch Dance proved to be a great success, both socially and financially. A profit of £30 14s. 6d. was made, and the sum of £25 was donated to the B. & O. Fund. Thanks, Poplar.

* * *

Members received the news of the decease, through heart failure, of **Mr. H. G. King,** superintendent of parks, Ilford, at the early age of 48 years, with considerable surprise and shock. Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. King and her son Maurice (aged 10).

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and particularly so by his colleagues in the London Branch of the Institute of Park Administration, of which branch he was chairman at the time of his passing.

* * *

The **East Ham** Branch annual new year party took place in the town hall on January 13.

During the evening an attractive programme of dancing, games, and entertainment was carried through for the company of 400 under the direction of the honorary social secretary, Mr. M. E. Fitch. The whole of the company sat down to refreshments in the adjoining Baths Hall, which was most tastefully decorated, the arrangements having been made by Miss Enid Haines and her band of helpers. The waiting at table was undertaken by members of the official staff.

During an interval, the chairman of the branch made a presentation of a canteen of cutlery to Mr. Ernie F. Rutt, who for a number of years was the highly efficient social secretary.

* * *

The East Ham Town Council at its meeting held on January 4, 1937, appointed **Mr. Edwin W. Joslin** as town clerk in place of Mr. C. Eustace Wilson, who died in December last.

Mr. Joslin entered the service of the East Ham Urban District Council as a junior clerk in the clerk's office in January, 1898, and has therefore seen the authority pass through all the stages leading to county borough status. He was appointed deputy town clerk on April 1, 1923. He has had a wide and varied experience of the work of a progressive local authority and is held in high esteem by both the members of the council and the official staff.

Mr. Joslin now joins a small company of town clerks not possessing a legal qualification. His knowledge of the work of his new office and the long training he received under the two previous town clerks are such that East Ham has no fears as to the ability with which he will discharge his duties. Mr. Joslin was born within fifty yards of the present town hall 54 years ago,

MR. E. W. JOSLIN

and received his early education at a local Elementary school from which he obtained a scholarship to the Carpenters' Company's Secondary School. He was for 13 years the honorary secretary of the East Ham Branch, relinquishing that office in the year 1920. He has also occupied the chair of the branch and until 1935 was a member of its executive committee. He was one of the original members and a past vice-chairman of the local joint committee established in 1920. His membership of that body ceased in 1935. For many years he was closely associated with the national movement in its early days, first attending the National Council meetings held at Blackpool in 1910. He continued to attend the annual conference until 1930 and also rendered useful service on the Metropolitan District Committee. He has always evinced a lively interest in every phase of N.A.L.G.O. activity and did much, in association with his colleagues, in making the East Ham Branch a very live organisation.

* * *

The **Nalgo (Metropolitan District) Operatic and Dramatic Society** invites you to reserve a seat at the King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, W.C.1, on the 17th, 18th, 19th, or 20th February, 1937, for the Society's fourth production "The Mikado."

THE CAST

NANKI-POO	...	The Wandering Minstrel with the golden voice — CECIL WIGLEY
YUM-YUM	...	"The Three Little Maids from School" — E. E. HOOPER
PITTI-SING	...	— — MISS GENT
PEE-BO	...	—Embodiment of Charm and innocence — PHYLLIS L. HISCOCK
KATISHA	...	Concentrated jealous invective — AUDREY WEST
POO-BAH	...	Solemn and Pompous Lord High Everything-Else — L. G. S. ULLYETT
KO-KO	...	Full of crafty schemes and antics — W. H. MANSFIELD
PISH-TUSH	...	A Noble Lord — JOHN C. WILLES
THE MIKADO	...	Tremendous Majesty! — EDGAR G. CLARKE
THE CHORUS	...	Too good to miss.

Produced by Mr. and Mrs. H. Enes Blackmore.
Musical Director: David Hutchinson.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:

Stalls and Circle, 5s., 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d.
Side Balcony, 1s. 6d.
(Including tax. All seats numbered and reserved.)

In aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. Apply for seats immediately to: W. Jno. Upton, Hon. Business Manager, 12a, Shieldhall Street, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.

The **photographic section of the Metropolitan District Committee,** which was formed in 1933, has progressed very favourably until now, it has been considered sufficiently advanced to stage an exhibition of the work of past, present, and prospective members at headquarters. This exhibition, which is the first of its type held in N.A.L.G.O., will prove a very interesting event and will be open free from March 1 to March 6 inclusive from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

The closing date for entries is February 10 or, with late fee, February 17. Prizes are offered for the best entries, and catalogues will be available free. Mr. H. S. Newcombe, sales manager of Messrs. Wallace Heaton, and well known in photographic circles, has very kindly consented to judge the entries. Particulars of entry and details of the photographic section may be obtained from Mr. Walter F. Broome, Jnr., at the Tate Central Library, Brixton Oval, S.W.2.

FROM THE NORTH-WEST

Cheshire Branch membership has increased by 25 to 511—a new high record.

* * *

Provincial Whitley Council scales of salaries for females were adopted during the past year, states the **St. Helens** Branch report, which also records revision of fixed establishments.

* * *

At the annual meeting of the **Bolton and District** Branch on December 4, Mr. T. Bent, parks superintendent, was elected president. Mr. Bent is one of the oldest corporation officials, having been parks superintendent for 19 years and having been connected with the department for over 40 years.

* * *

A most pleasant evening was spent on January 16, when the first Christmas party and dance was held under the auspices of the **Rhyl** Branch. During the evening "Father Christmas" paid a surprise visit and delivered gifts to all the ladies, and favourite carols were sung, led by Mr. W. Rees.

* * *

At the annual meeting of the **Wigan** Branch, Mr. F. Atherton, cemetery registrar, was reappointed president. It is worthy of note that Mr. Atherton, who was a foundation member of the branch, will complete his last year with the corporation prior to going on superannuation, and it is fitting that this will coincide with his presidential year of office. The one outstanding event in this year's report was the fact that after the sanction of the usual annual grant, apart from the members' normal contributions to the B. & O. Fund, Wigan has now contributed £5 10s. 1d. more to the fund than it has received, whereas three years ago there was a large debit balance. Further, Wigan can boast a 100 per cent membership to the "jewel" of N.A.L.G.O.'s activities.

* * *

The annual dinner of the **Leigh** Branch attracted a large number of members this year, and all report it to be one of the most successful functions held for some time. At the annual general meeting Mr. T. Mather was unanimously elected president and the honorary secretary and honorary treasurer, Mr. D. S. Prescott and Mr. J. Sargent, were both re-elected. One of the most popular members of the branch,

Mr. Daniel Ledson, the sewage works manager, has retired on superannuation. Mr. Ledson is a life member of the B. & O. Fund, and for a number of years was a member of the executive committee. Many members throughout the country will remember Mr. Ledson at conference—he was the regular representative for the Institute of Sewerage Purification.

* * *

At a farewell supper held on December 30, 1936, the members of the **Wrexham** Borough Branch presented Mr. J. W. Rogers, borough treasurer and vice-president of the branch, with a display cabinet upon his retirement after having served the Wrexham Town Council for 53 years. The presentation was made by the president, Dr. T. P. Edwards, medical officer of health, and was supported by Mr. Lawson Taylor, town clerk; Mr. J. England, borough engineer; Mr. C. G. Morris, deputy borough treasurer and successor to Mr. Rogers, and Mr. J. W. Williams, borough electrical engineer. The entertainment following was given by members of the branch.

* * *

The important part which local government plays in the life of the community was stressed at the first annual dinner of the **Blackpool** Branch, held on December 2. The town clerk, Mr. D. L. Harbottle, caused some surprise when he remarked that it was the first occasion during thirty-five years' connection with local government that he had been called upon to propose the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation." He observed that the strain of public life was becoming so great that the time would come very soon when every corporation official would be retired at forty-five.

Responding, the Mayor paid a tribute to Mr. Harbottle and congratulated the president of the branch. "Having spent so much time in the company of aldermen and councillors who convince themselves that they run this town," the Mayor said, "it is a treat for once to get into the company of those who do run it."

NORTH-EAST

The **West Hartlepool** Branch held its annual meeting on December 9, 1936, the town clerk, Mr. Harold W. Stanton, presiding. The annual report showed that the membership has been maintained at 217.

* * *

There was a large attendance of members at the annual meeting of the **Middlesbrough** Branch on December 8, 1936. The membership of the branch has increased by 44 during the year and now totals 386. It was decided to appoint a separate honorary officer to deal with B. & O. Fund matters, and it is hoped in this way to obtain increased support for the Fund.

* * *

There was an attendance of about fifty members at the annual meeting of the **Stockton-on-Tees** Branch, and the annual report recorded that a revised grading scheme is receiving the consideration of the town council.

Application had been made to the Council for the adoption of a superannuation scheme, but the Council have decided to await the Compulsory Bill.

* * *

The annual meeting of the **Gateshead** Branch learned that there had been an increase in membership of 27, and a corresponding increase in the number of annual subscribers to the B. & O. Fund. The sum of £50 had been allocated during the year to various local charities from a special fund to which the members in the several departments contribute. During the meeting the members learned with deep regret of the sudden death of the Mayoress, and passed a silent vote of condolence to the Mayor, Alderman J. White.

* * *

The annual meeting of the **Jarrow** Branch was told of the negotiations which had taken place during the year regarding the setting-up of a joint committee and the institution of a grading scheme.

It was reported that the branch had made a donation of 3 guineas to the committee responsible for the arrangements in connexion with the recent petition to Parliament on behalf of the town. The branch has also presented to the town, to mark the centenary year of local government, an enamelled medallion inscribed with the Jarrow coat-of-arms for the use of the Mayoress.

* * *

The Lord Mayor, Alderman John Grantham, J.P., who had been elected Patron of the branch, was present at the annual general meeting of the **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** Branch, and expressed his appreciation of the work of the Association and the assistance which he had always received from the municipal officers. The Sheriff was also present, and addressed a few well-chosen remarks on representative organisations and stressed the desirability of a 100 per cent membership. The branch has experienced another year of progress in all departments, and the consideration which has been given to a scheme of annuities for widows and orphans of members is of particular interest. Mr. G. W. Hedderly, deputy city treasurer, who has at all times displayed an active interest in the affairs of the branch, presided over the meeting.

* * *

There was a very satisfactory attendance at the annual meeting of the **South Shields** Branch. The membership of the branch has increased by 25 during the year, and a similar number of further applications for membership was approved during the evening. Many of the departments can now claim 100 per cent membership of the B. & O. Fund, and an appeal was made to the other departments for further support. The divisional secretary was present at the meeting, and gave a brief talk on matters of general interest to the members.

* * *

The **Middlesbrough** Branch held its annual dinner and dance at the Town Hall, Middlesbrough, on December 18, 1936. The guests were received by the president, Mr. Charles F. Bosher, and Mrs. Bosher. A large number of members of the Council and their ladies were included amongst the guests.

* * *

Proposing the toast of "N.A.L.G.O." at the annual dinner-dance of the **Sunderland** Branch held on December 18, 1936, Alderman J. Ritson, M.P., said that he wished there was more civic pride among the townspeople at large; if there were, there would be fewer grousers.

* * *

The Mayor of Darlington, Councillor R. Luck, J.P., extended a civic welcome to the representatives attending the annual meeting of the **North-Eastern District Committee**, which was held at Darlington on January 9, 1937.

The borough accountant, G. Dobson Wright, Esq., president of the Darlington Branch, took the chair at the commencement of the proceedings.

The first item on the agenda was the election of a chairman for the ensuing year, and Mr. R. E. Heron (Sunderland) was unanimously re-elected. The election of other officers followed.

The executive and sports committee were constituted and representatives appointed to serve on the area education committee and the regional B. & O. committee.

Annual Report.

Consideration was next given to the sixteenth annual report and the statement of accounts for the year ended October 31, 1936. The membership in the area, which stood at approximately 5,000 at the end of 1935, shows a considerable increase during the year under review. Progress has been made towards the formation of a Whitley Council for the Counties of Durham and Northumberland and the Cleveland District of Yorkshire. Four additional authorities have adopted schemes of superannuation, and improvements have been effected in salaries and grading schemes, holidays, and sickness allowances in a number of cases. The area education committee's activities included the institution of a Diploma in Public Administration at Armstrong College, University of Durham, and the holding of a week-end school at Bentham Grove Settlement in January last. A small surplus on the year's working was disclosed in the Financial Statement.

Reports and Addresses.

Mr. J. W. Vince (Durham County) gave a resume of the proceedings of the last meeting of the National Executive Council. Mr. T. Cooper Dawson (Sunderland) gave a report on the work of the B. & O. regional committee, Mr. W. Temperley (Northumberland) dealt with the report of the area education committee, and the divisional secretary (Mr. W. Cecil Wood) gave an account of his work in the area.

The organising secretary, Mr. J. B. Swinden, addressed the meeting and was accorded an enthusiastic reception.

The executive committee was authorised to act in any matters of urgency arising in connexion with the proposed North Eastern Whitley Council.

Hospitality.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a large number of representatives partook of high tea at the Queen's Hall Café. A hearty vote of thanks to the Darlington Branch for the excellent arrangements made for the comfort of the representatives and to the Darlington Corporation for the facilities provided for the meeting, was moved by the vice-chairman, Mr. F. Bingham, and Mr. C. Brand suitably responded.

* * *

AMONG THE BROAD ACRES

Apologies to the **Batley** Branch for the wrong impression created by the comment in the January issue on its annual report. We said, "B. & O. position not so good." Membership is actually 100 per cent, but grants from the Fund almost equal subscriptions from the members.

(*Continued on page* 41.)

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There was a large attendance of members and friends at the annual dinner and dance of the **Scarborough** Branch on January 13, 1937. The Mayor of Scarborough, Alderman J. W. Butler, J.P., was unfortunately unable to attend owing to indisposition, his place being filled by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor F. C. Whitaker, J.P. The borough treasurer proposed the toast of the Mayor and Corporation of Scarborough. This was responded to in witty vein by the Deputy Mayor, who also proposed the toast of N.A.L.G.O. The divisional secretary responded and referred particularly to the valuable efforts of the Scarborough Branch in connexion with the B. & O. Fund.

* * *

The fortieth annual report of the **Hull** Branch gives a very comprehensive survey of the affairs of the branch and the Association during the year ended October 31, 1936. The branch membership has increased by 48 during the year and substantial progress has also been made in membership of the B. & O. Fund.

* * *

About fifty members attended the annual general meeting of the **East Riding** County Officers' Branch. Mr. A. G. Bolton (honorary secretary of the Yorkshire District Committee and a member of the National Executive Council) gave an address on Whitleyism and stressed the importance of this subject in view of the fact that the Yorkshire District Committee has this matter under serious consideration at the present time.

* * *

At the annual meeting of the **Huddersfield** Branch, a very comprehensive report on the year's work by the executive committee. A very satisfactory feature in the report was the concession granted by the corporation in respect of allowances for non-contributory service, the basis adopted being 80ths instead of 120ths. The membership of the B. & O. Fund has increased from 295 to 398 during the year under review, the latter figure representing 84.7 per cent of the branch membership.

* * *

At the annual dinner of the **Halifax** Branch the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Crossley Hodgson, J.P.) and the vice-chairman of the Sowerby Urban District Council (Mr. Councillor C. W. Maude, J.P.) were the principal guests. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. E. Lloyd, president, the Association was represented by the divisional secretary.

The annual general meeting of the branch followed at the conclusion of the dinner.

* * *

The **Scarborough** Branch annual meeting was held on December 4, 1936, the town clerk, Mr. Sydney Jones, presiding. The annual report drew attention to the fact that the branch holds the B. & O. Shield for the highest aggregate amount per member contributed by the branches in the Yorkshire District, the amount of the conference purse for the current year being £137. Mr. H. Allen, by special invitation of the members, addressed the meeting on Whitleyism and referred particularly to the activities of the Yorkshire District Committee in this connexion.

The annual meeting of the **Yorkshire District Committee** was held at Leeds on December 12, 1936. Dr. J. Dick, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., medical superintendent of St. James' Hospital, Leeds, and president of the Leeds Branch, extended a very cordial welcome to the delegates. There was an attendance of 117. Mr. W. W. Armitage, vice-president of the Association, presided.

The reports of two meetings of the executive committee, held on October 6 and December 1 respectively, were adopted. These reports showed that a comprehensive questionnaire on salaries, grading, and service conditions had been forwarded to all branches and a tabulation of the replies received would be submitted to the district committee at a future meeting. The executive committee had also met representatives from branches in the North and East Ridings and York Branch, and discussed with them the question of setting up a Whitley Council or Councils in those areas, or alternatively extending the area of the West Riding Joint Council to embrace the whole of Yorkshire (except the Cleveland area). A circular letter, stressing the urgent need for increased support, had been sent to all branches with less than 75 per cent membership of the B. & O. Fund.

The report of the sports committee was submitted by Mr. W. E. Laughton (Rotherham) and adopted.

Mr. R. E. Sopwith (Sheffield) reported on the proceedings of two meetings of the area education committee, and two meetings of the B. & O. regional committee were reported upon by Mr. L. M. Crow (Leeds).

Annual Report

The annual report of the district committee was next considered. A satisfactory increase in membership was disclosed, and four new branches had been formed during the year. Eleven authorities had adopted schemes of superannuation and improvements in salaries, service conditions, and holidays had been effected in a number of cases. The amounts authorised for disbursement from the B. & O. Fund during the year totalled £1,390.

Mr. T. Nolan (Leeds), honorary treasurer, submitted the annual accounts, the balance on the general account, despite a deficit for the year, standing at £165. The report of the honorary auditors, Mr. A. Barraclough, A.S.A.A., and Mr. T. E. Coatham (Batley), followed.

Elections

A hearty vote of thanks to the retiring officers, proposed by Mr. H. O. Bates (Hull), and seconded by Mr. J. H. Clark (Wakefield) was carried with acclamation, and the chairman, Mr. W. W. Armitage, responded.

The meeting then proceeded with the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the appointment of representatives to serve on the executive committee, area education committee, sports committee, and the West Riding Joint Council.

Mr. H. Allen (West Riding), Mr. T. W. Bottomley (Dewsbury), and Mr. T. Nolan (Leeds) then reported upon the October meeting of the National Executive Council and Standing Committees.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, the members were entertained to tea at the Leeds Municipal Officers' Dining Club.

It was afterwards decided that the thanks of the Committee be conveyed to the Leeds Branch for the hospitality extended, and to the general manager of the electricity department, Mr. C. Nelson Hefford, for kindly allowing the use of the room for the meetings.

EAST MIDLAND

At the annual meeting of the **Leicester** Branch on December 16, Mr. R. W. Ramsay, master, Swain Street Institution, was elected president. Mr. J. Hill made a very able plea for more support to the B. & O. Fund. Membership increased by 160 to 845 during the year.

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The annual meeting of the **Newark** Branch was informed that the membership was 57, a net increase of 4 on the year.

* * *

The annual dinner of the branch was held on December 18. The divisional secretary replied to the toast of "The Association," and gave a lucid outline of N.A.L.G.O.'s aims and objects, particularly in its relations with local authorities. The Mayor of Newark responded to the toast, "The Visitors."

* * *

Mr. L. E. Rumsey, clerk of the county council and president of the branch, presided at the annual dinner of the **Leicestershire** County Officers' Branch, held on January 6. Unfortunately many guests were absent owing to influenza. In a tribute to his personal staff and heads of departments, Mr. Rumsey remarked: "I have a vast amount of responsibility on my shoulders, but my burden is much lessened by them."

* * *

An amusing incident which occurred at the reading of the Royal Proclamation at **Swadlincote** (South Derbyshire), was referred to by the clerk to the urban district council, Mr. E. R. Allen, at its last meeting.

The occasion was the first on which a Royal Proclamation had been publicly read in the urban district, and, as the clerk remarked, they had that day made history.

Acknowledging a vote of thanks, the clerk mentioned that there was an incident which he thought he ought to relate, in fairness to the chairman, Mr. J. Davis, because it would explain something that must have puzzled members at the time.

"At the ceremony, I was standing behind the chairman, and, as it concluded, I wished to remind him not to forget to call for three cheers for the King.

"Unfortunately, I didn't remind him in those precise words, but, touching him lightly on the shoulder, I quietly said in his ear, 'Hip, hip!' Instantly, and quite involuntarily, up shot his arm, as he waved and lustily shouted 'Hurrah!' There was consternation for a moment, but happily the chairman soon recovered himself, and the cheers for their Majesties were heartily given."

WEST MIDLANDS

The annual meeting of the **Sutton Coldfield** Branch was held on December 18, and the annual report shows that an innovation has been the formation of a photography section, which has been given good support.

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On leaving Malvern to take up a similar appointment at Newport (Isle of Wight), **Mr. P Martin,** the housing manager, was the recipient of two framed photographs of Malvern by Mr. Lucas (president of the branch) on behalf of the members.

* * *

The annual dinner of the **Malvern** Branch again proved an enjoyable affair. Mr. J W. Lucas (librarian) presided, supported by the clerk (Mr. J. Bulman), Councillor W. Sayers, J.P., chairman of the Malvern Council, and Councillor J. Newman, chairman of the Upton Rural District Council. Mr. G. A. Stone, National Executive Council, was present and responded to the toast of "N.A.L.G.O."

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At the annual general meeting of the **Salop** Branch held on December 11, 1936, Dr. T. R. Elliott on behalf of the members of the branch presented to Mr. W. H. Pendlebury a three-piece solid silver coffee set, to which over 200 members had subscribed, as a mark of their appreciation of the work, assistance, and advice given and performed by him during his office as president for the past eight years (1928-36). Mr. Pendlebury's resignation is due to his retirement as secretary of education for the county. The sum of £3 3s. was voted to the playing fields scheme of the King George V. Memorial Fund.

EASTERN

The **Saffron Walden and District** Branch held its first annual dinner on January 6, seventy-six members and friends being present. Alderman E. Rooke, in reply to the toast of the Guests, said everyone recognised the importance of local government to the welfare of the people, and referred to the excellent work of the local officers. Councillor J. Butterworth congratulated the branch upon its increase in membership, and the keen interest that is being taken in all activities. A whist drive and dance followed the dinner.

* * *

On December 22, 1936, at The Haystack, the **Canvey Island** Branch of N.A.L.G.O., held a very successful social function in the nature of a Christmas Party and dance. Mr. Councillor W. V. Johnstone kindly acted as M.C. and supplied the services of the band. Prizes were awarded for several of the dances and games, in which were included one or two surprise items arranged by the M.C.

SOUTH

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of the president of the Dover Branch, **Mr. E. M. Birch,** which occurred early on Christmas Day. Mr. Birch has been the president since the formation of the Dover Branch in 1931, and was an ardent worker in the interests of N.A.L.G.O. By his death the branch has suffered a great loss.

* * *

The fifth annual dinner and dance of the **Bognor Regis** Branch, held on January 8, 1937, was unanimously declared by the one hundred and fifty members and guests present to be the most enjoyable and most successful function the branch has yet held. After dinner, dancing continued until two o'clock, with a jolly half-hour interlude by the "Nalgotineys," a newly-formed concert party of members of the branch and their wives, giving their first performance.

* * *

The following programme of lectures has been arranged by the **Oxford** County Branch to take place at the county hall, Oxford. There are no fees for the course, and the lectures are open to all persons who care to attend, whether members of the Association or not.

Monday, February 15, 5.30 p.m., Dr. H. C. Jennings, County Medical Officer of Health, Public Health. Monday, March 15, 5.30 p.m., Councillor H. W. B. Joseph, Chairman of City of Oxford Education Committee, Education. Monday, April 5, 5.30 p.m., Alderman W. Hyde, Chairman of the Oxfordshire Public Assistance Committee, Public Assistance and Unemployment Assistance. Monday, April 26, 5.30 p.m., Mr. G. T. Bennett, County Surveyor, The Work of a County Surveyor's Department.

The lectures have been planned to give a practical and instructive introduction to the work of the various departments of a local authority and of local government generally. The lectures are intended to deal not only with the organisation and potentialities of each department, but also to illustrate the relationships of the various departments with each other. Each lecture will last about an hour, including time for questions and discussion.

SOUTH-WEST

The **Gloucestershire** Branch report records an increase of 28 in membership, the total at October 31, 1936, being 274. Further improvements have been made in service conditions.

* * *

It is with great regret that the death in London of **Mr. Joseph King Mills,** on January 2, 1937, of the finance department of the Bristol Corporation, is announced. For more than forty years he was engaged in the accountancy section and city treasurer's office and was always a cheery and popular member of the staff. He had been a member of the Bristol Branch since its inception, and put in many years of useful work as correspondent of the Approved Society and also served on the Management Committee. For the past seven years he was branch honorary treasurer and for two years a representative on the South-Western District Committee. He will be greatly missed by a large number of colleagues.

* * *

The annual dinner of the **Minehead** Branch was held on January 5, 1937. Before and after the dinner, skittle matches were played between the clerk's department and the surveyor's department. The former proved the much stronger combination and won the three games played. In his speech, the chairman of the council referred to a position in a municipal office as a highly honoured position.

SOUTH-WALES

The **Merthyr Tydfil** Branch has recently lost two of its members through death—Mr. Milton M Thomas, senior sanitary inspector, and Mr. Evan Jones, cashier at the borough treasurer's dept. Both had been associated with the local branch since its formation.

* * *

A highly successful dinner was held by the **Cardiff** Branch on December 10, 1936. The dinner was followed by a whist drive and dance, and the whole function was voted one of the most enjoyable of those which have been organised by the branch. More than 300 people were present.

* * *

The annual dinner of the **Newport (Mon.)** Branch was held on December 10, 1936, when Mr. A. Nichols Moore, borough electrical engineer and president of the branch, presided. The dinner was followed by a most successful dance at which over 200 members and friends were present.

* * *

The annual general meeting of the **Monmouthshire** County Officers' Branch was attended by 106 members. Dr. J. G. Owen, superintendent medical officer, Ty-Bryn Institution, Tredegar (president), referred to the loss sustained by the branch by the death of Mr. T. G. James, M.A., O.B.E., chief education officer, and Mr. T. Hughes, clerk to the council.

* * *

We congratulate **Mr. Vernon Lawrence,** solicitor to the Glamorgan County Council, on his appointment as clerk to the Monmouth County Council. Mr. Lawrence had for twenty-two years been in the office of the clerk to the Glamorgan County Council, and has given splendid help to the Glamorgan County Officers' Branch. He has been for many years a member of the Branch Executive and a representative on the staff side of the joint advisory committee.

* * *

The annual report of the **Glamorgan** County Officers' Branch, which was presented to the annual meeting on December 19, 1936, recorded a further increase in membership from 940 to 1,001. The increase is all the more creditable as large numbers of members were lost to the branch during the year through their transfer to the Unemployment Assistance Board. Many matters affecting the service conditions of members have been the subject of negotiation in the joint advisory committee and much useful work has been achieved on behalf of members.

* * *

Mr. G. H. Whitaker (city engineer), the president of the **Cardiff** Branch, presided at the annual general meeting on December 18, 1936, when there was a large attendance. The honorary secretary, in his report, gave an account of the negotiations with the Council with regard to the salary grade and gave a synopsis of the approved scale of holidays which had been agreed by the Council during the course of the year. It was with regret that the meeting heard of the resignation of Mr. Ivor Williams, honorary assistant secretary, who has held that office for the past 12 years. Eloquent tributes were paid to Mr Williams for the work done during his years of office.

* * *

At the 26th annual general meeting of the **Newport** Branch, held on December 11, 1936, appreciative reference was made to Mr. Horace N. Fitt, the honorary secretary of the branch, who had announced his intention of resigning. Sincere tribute was paid to the splendid work he had done in the seven years during which he held office. Mr. J. Ruffe-William was elected honorary secretary

N.A.L.G.O.

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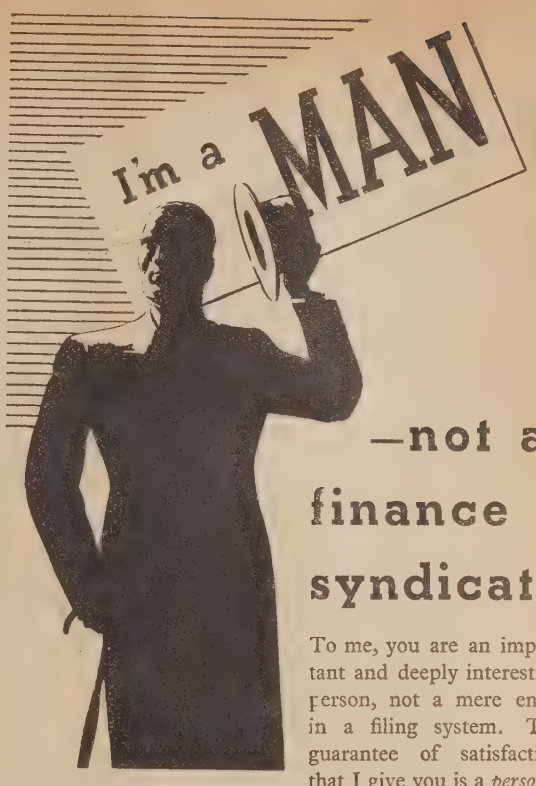

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Stuarts

General Literature

By JONAS PRAPS

Bygone Days

Many reproductions of old diaries have appeared in recent years. One of the most interesting is that of a "**Miss Weeton,**" whose "**Journal of a Governess, 1807-1811**" is edited by Edward Hall (Oxford University Press, 12s. 6d.). The volume includes a number of letters from Upholland (Lancs.), Liverpool, and Ambleside, and is an excellent commentary on social affairs of the day. The lady, despite a certain primness in mannerisms, is a cute judge of character, and her descriptive passages are excellent. —— Some readers might class Rosamund Bayne-Powell's "**English Country Life in the 18th Century**" (Murray, 10s. 6d.) in the "scissors and paste" category. It is true that much of the matter is culled from contemporary diaries, but the connecting links are cleverly done, and in no other book I have come across recently can the general reader find so interesting a picture of the village, the doctor, squire, parson, farmer, tradesman, schoolmaster, labourer, etc., in an eighteenth century atmosphere.

Travel Experiences

"**Rapid Rivers,**" by William Bliss (Witherby, 8s. 6d.), is a book which up to now I have missed. The loss has been mine, for it is a rather unique book. The writer has a flair for "shooting rapids"; his experiences cover some English and Welsh rivers including the Wharfe, the Ribble, the Eden, and the Usk. But the book-in addition to recounting the valiant deeds of his canoe, guided by himself, tells of the many good companions he met in the course of his travels, more particularly in wayside inns. —— Mr. David Haig-Thomas is an adventurer of parts. It was he who climbed the spire of King's College Chapel and affixed an umbrella thereto for mere devilment. He is an old Cambridge rowing Blue with a passion for wandering. If he is as charming a companion as his writing indicates in "**I Leap Before I Look**" (Putnam, 10s. 6d.) many of my readers would have welcomed the opportunity of accompanying him on his travels (I might have written escapades) in Spain, Canada, Abyssinia, and the Arctic regions. —— That there are still savage tribes living in primitive fashion in North-Western Australia is evinced by Mr. J. R. B. Love's "**Stone-age Bushmen of To-day**" (Blackie, 8s. 6d.). The writer is connected with a Mission, and in addition to personal experiences and adventures gives a great deal of information concerning the language, manners, and customs of the native races. —— A diary of life and experiences in the wild country in the interior of the Amazonian jungle by a youth in his teens, the only survivor of a party of eighteen, not only promises surprise and interest but provides them. The diary, edited with an introduction and epilogue, is "**Devil Brother,**" by Walter Baron (Hurst & Blackett, 12s. 6d.), the title given to the boy by the savage natives. He joined the expedition, not for its scientific interest, but in search of adventure, and found it, making many friends and enemies among the Indians.

A Working Man's Career

Mr. Fred Bower has had a chequered career, not one of the unbelievable type but real life. "**Rolling Stonemason**" (Cape, 7s. 6d.) is his autobiography. In between following his trade as a stonemason he has travelled Canada and the States, been a worker, even a parliamentary candidate, for the Labour party and many other things besides. Latterly he has lived in a hut of his own making overlooking the Dee estuary; many of the incidents take place in Liverpool. His spare time, and he has known unemployment, has been devoted to poetry and writing his autobiography.

Miscellaneous

Many will be familiar with the delightful books of Mazo de la Roche describing the Whiteoak family, an old American family with its centenarian head. The family story centring round three generations has been dramatised as "**Whiteoaks**" (Macmillan, 3s. 6d.) and is an excellent character study—largely concerned with the family impecuniosities and what the old lady will do with her money. —— Karl Baarslag has collected in a single volume under the title "**S O S, Radio Rescues at Sea**" (Methuen, 10s. 6d.) the story of some ten to fifteen sea disasters in the twentieth century. The book is intended to illustrate the valour and importance of wireless operators at sea and relates many stirring incidents. —— Film fans will enjoy looking over "**Movie Parade,**" by Paul Rotha ("Studio" Offices, 10s. 6d.). It is chiefly illustrations with short descriptive passages outlining the progress of the film during the twentieth century. It is arranged under the general headings—with sub-divisions — "fiction," "fact," and "trick," and will revive memories of forgotten pictures. —— Two scientific works recently published have had good sales. They are "**The World of Science,**" by F. S. Taylor (Heinemann, 8s. 6d.) and L. Hogben's "**Mathematics for the Million**" (Allen & Unwin, 12s. 6d.). The last named has proved very popular as a Christmas gift. Both aim at popularising scientific knowledge and are beautifully produced.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN KENT

Mr. John Moss has produced a brilliant report on the administration of the public assistance department of the Kent County Council for the two years ended March 31, 1936. It is a record of improvements in administration and in co-ordination of the work of this department and, contrary to anticipations, the report shows that a greater volume of detailed matters have had to be considered during the period under review than during the first two years after the transfer of functions. A very useful appendix to the report is a comparative statement, corrected to September 30, 1936, of the staffs of the institutions and hospitals coming within the purview of the department.

The Book of the Month

APART from the references in the "*Whitehall Series*" to the civil service and from the chapter entitled "The Municipal Service" in "*A Century of Municipal Progress*" to the local government service there has been a dearth of literature dealing with the recruitment, training, qualifications, promotions, service conditions and organisation of the public services. An attempt was made in the April-June, 1936, issue of the *Political Quarterly* to survey this field, and from this attempt the "**British Civil Servant**" (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 7s. 6d. net) has emerged. Edited by Dr. W. A. Robson, the chapters are contributed by a strong team of leading thinkers and administrators in the realm of public administration, who discuss the most important questions relating to the home civil service, the diplomatic service, the local government service, the semi-public services such as the B.B.C., and the colonial service.

The need for a volume of this character can be gauged from the changes and developments of the most far-reaching character which have taken place during the past fifteen to twenty years. Starting with a brief yet pungent review of the public service as seen by Dr. Robson, the work develops through the home civil service (Professor Ernest Barker), the foreign service (Hon. Harold Nicholson, M.P.) to the middle and lower grades of the civil service (Mr. A. J. Waldegrave). Then Sir Ernest Simon and Mr. L. Hill discuss the chief officers and the middle and lower grades of the local government service respectively, and Dr. Herman Finer analyses the personnel of the semi-public services. The expert in the civil service (Mr. F. A. A. Menzler), women in the civil service (Ray Strachey), the Indian Civil Service (Mr. John Coatman) and the colonial service (Mr. Leonard Barnes) complete the remainder of the book.

There is, curiously enough, no conclusion from the editor of the work and one has the feeling that, if he had tried to summarize the criticisms and suggestions of the contributors, the "British Civil Servant" would have been nicely rounded off and, at the same time, the reader would have been given an opportunity of thinking round the subject as a whole, and of developing interrelated lines of thought on the many problems which are posed between the covers of the book.

But one does not want to be niggling. The "British Civil Servant" crystallizes a mass of fact, of opinion, and of controversy; it gives the public officer an opportunity to see himself as others see him; it enables him quietly and in the secrecy of his own study to examine his conscience and, if for no other reasons than these, the "British Civil Servant" is undoubtedly the book of the month.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Fabian Society tract number 218, "**The County Council: what it is and what it does**" (3d.) by H. Samuels, deals with the county councils of England and Wales minus the London County Council. It is concerned with their powers and duties under the existing law and not with changes which may result from the adoption of proposals for reform or from legislation which has not yet passed the initial stage

Institute of Public Administration

THE inaugural address of the winter session of the Institute of Public Administration was delivered by Mr. John Hilton, Montague Burton Professor of Industrial Relations at the University of Cambridge. His subject was "The Public Services in Relation to the Problem of Unemployment." He discussed the obsolete "genuinely-seeking-work" clause, and the present means test, not so much from the standpoint of social ethics, as from the point of view of their effect on the staff who had to administer them. This had the effect, he thought, of diverting public servants from their main task of helping the unemployed to get work, and forced them to adopt an inquisitorial attitude. He urged that full recognition should be given to the fact that the Act constituting the Unemployment Assistance Board imposed upon it remedial responsibilities as well as relief functions. In these days almost every unemployed man or woman was a "special case," requiring understanding and sympathy. From this point of view he hoped that the new system, under which all recipients of transitional benefit were visited monthly in their own homes, might prove in course of time an instrument of real good.

When Sir Ernest and Lady Simon visited Moscow they devoted special attention to the local government of that city, and at a meeting of the Institute Lady Simon gave a most informative and interesting account of local government in Moscow. She described the constitution of the Moscow Soviet and gave many facts concerning education. The meeting was presided over by the Right Hon. Herbert Morrison, M.P., who has recently joined the Institute.

"SOME aspects of sick absence in industry" formed the subject of an address given by Dr. H. H. Bashford, Chief Medical Officer to the Post Office, on the 10th December last at Montagu House, S.W.1, to members of the Institute of Public Administration.

Dr. Bashford mentioned in some detail the practice of the Post Office in granting sick pay and free medical attendance to its employees, and stated that it was in the unique position of being the only institution of its size possessing complete sick records of its staff throughout their official lives. Enabled by these records a vast amount of research had been undertaken, as a result of which, among other things, several conclusions had been reached with an important bearing on the acceptability or otherwise from a medical point of view of applicants for appointment to the Post Office staff.

This address is reported in full in the issue of the quarterly Journal of the Institute, published in January, 1937.

Full particulars of the Institute's programme of lectures, etc., for the Winter Session, 1936-37, may be obtained from Mr. K. P. Cannon, Hon. Secretary of Propaganda, Room No. 238, The County Hall, London, S.E.1.

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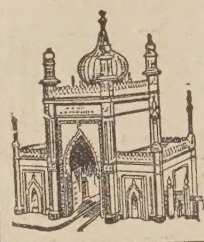

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Among the Latest Publications

The Law

Dr. W. Ivor Jennings has conferred a benefaction upon the local government administrator by his "**The Law of Public Health, 1936**" (Charles Knight & Co., Ltd., 42s. 6d. net, postage 8d.). He who begins with the assumption that the Public Health Act of 1936 is a consolidating measure will soon find himself deceived, and it is wise to treat the statute as part of a new code. At any rate, Dr. Jennings has started from this assumption and has produced a comprehensive guide to the new Act, drawing upon a mass of case law and not hesitating to draw conclusions where it is better to give a tentative opinion that to leave doubtful points until such time as they can be given judicial explanation. A book for both the student and the administrator, hallmarked by the authorship of one whose previous works are regarded as good enough to settle the point.

Mr. E. Bedford, Borough Treasurer of Stoke Newington, is the author of "**Audits of Local Authorities, including Financial Control**" (Butterworth & Co., Ltd., 42s. 6d. net), which embraces the statutory audits and internal audits applicable to local authorities in England, Wales, and Scotland, together with a resume of the principal provisions relating to commercial audits. The genesis of this work will be found in the reports of the examinations committee of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants on the subject of auditing, during recent years, and of the requirements of that body as shown in the examination syllabus. The book collects in one comprehensive work those matters which directly affect the auditor of the transactions of a local authority no matter whether he be district auditor, professional auditor, borough auditor, or internal auditor.

Another comprehensive work—one which has been brought up to date—is Dumsday's "**Local Government Acts of Parish Councils**" (fifth edition, Hadden, Best & Co., Ltd., 27s. 6d. net). This is believed to be the only complete work on the subject, and, in addition to dealing fully with the powers and duties of parish councils and parish meetings in explanatory chapters, includes the text of all the important statues, orders, circulars and memoranda concerning parish councils issued up to date of going to press. The necessity for a new edition of this work is the coming into operation of the Local Government Act, 1933, and the same care and thoroughness has been devoted to it as heretofore.

"**Parliamentary and Local Government Elections,**" by William E. Eyles, a member of the Bath Branch (Pitman's, 5s. net), is a practical handbook dealing with this subject principally from the point of view of the returning officer. The various provisions are set out in as concise a form as possible and unnecessary detail has been omitted. A useful feature is the inclusion of an outline of the statutes and orders dealing with the registration of electors and jurors. It thus provides students of local government and particularly those concerned with the work of elections with a guide and reference to the many provisions which govern the conduct of Parliamentary and local government elections.

The second edition of Parish's "**Chairman's Pilot and Chart**" (Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd., 5s. net) has just made its appearance, and, here again, the Local Government Act, 1933, has been the determining factor in the decision to issue a new edition. The main use of this book—and it is admirable for the purpose—is to bring together a plain and simple statement of the law of meetings. The rules of procedure are condensed into 24 simple rules and there is a very useful chart which answers 156 questions of procedure at a glance and shows all the formal and other usual motions, with the limits and restrictions applying to each. It is an invaluable companion at all meetings, whether of companies, clubs, local authorities or societies.

"**Meetings, Uniforms and Public Order**" (Jordan & Sons, Ltd., 6d.) explains in a very interesting and readable style, avoiding technical language, the law relating to public meetings, processions and so on, with particular reference to the Public Order Act, 1936. In fact, this Act is set out in full as an appendix.

Liquor—and the U.S.A.

"**After Repeal,**" by Leonard V. Harrison and Elizabeth Laine (Harper & Bros., 49, East 33rd Street, New York), is an authoritative study and evaluation of the efforts of the various legislative and administrative bodies, both federal and state, to meet the problems of a new era in liquor control ushered in by the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. This report embodies the results of two years of intensive study at close range of a social and legal problem with which the United States has been grappling for decades. Unbiassed, frank and factual in its description of present day methods of liquor control in the United States, this book also points the way to more intelligent and workable solutions in the future.

The Cabinet

At last a text book of this all important subject and, moreover, a book of absorbing interest, "**Cabinet Government,**" by Dr. W. Ivor Jennings (Cambridge University Press, 21s. net). Readable, factual, critical, it contains a detailed account of the evolution of cabinet government in the course of the last century and at the same time a description of the accepted functions and relative authority of the Sovereign, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, Parliament and the electors. Dr. Jennings shows that the duty and authority of high office ultimately depend upon common opinion; the House of Commons and the Cabinet are the instruments of democracy; the Royal Prerogative has been subordinated to public opinion. It is part of the system that no official record of these modifications is available, and Dr. Jennings has often had to go to personal writings, letters and memoirs to arrive at the facts and the chronology. As far as the secret and changing nature of the subject permits, the book is up to date. There is evidence of an amazing amount of research, the scholarship is of an extraordinarily high level and the subject makes an absorbing story. If Dr. Jennings be remembered for nothing else, posterity gratefully will associate his name with the first full-length study of the Cabinet.

History

Mr. H. Lloyd-Parry, ex-town clerk of Exeter and honorary lecturer on Constitutional Law and Public Administration at the University College of the South West of England, has written for the city council "**The History of Exeter Guildhall and the Life Within**" (James Townend & Sons, Exeter). The Guildhall can make claim to be the oldest municipal building in the kingdom and has been scheduled as an ancient monument. Certainly no municipal building can claim a greater age and the earliest references which can be found to it are in a deed of about 1160. But, apart from the antiquity of the Guildhall itself, Mr. Lloyd-Parry tells in an interesting story the life within right from the time when not only were all the public affairs of the city determined within its walls but all legal agreements between citizen and citizen were concluded between the four benches of the Guildhall. For anyone who is interested in the history of the life of the people in those dim ages that are so cursorily dismissed in the text books, this record of the town whose motto is "Semper Fidelis" provides a rich treat.

"**The Last Thirty Years in Public Health,**" by Sir Arthur Newsholme (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 15s.), while maintaining a continuous thread of personal narrative, is a successful study of the evolution during the last three decades of medicine on its preventive side, as applied to the ever-widening scope of public health administration. It relates to the decades in which this evolution has proceeded at almost lightning speed. There runs through the volume the double thread of rapidly increasing knowledge and almost as rapid application of this knowledge in practice. In this progress the growth of a "health conscience" has played a great part and the idea of alleviation by treatment has been increasingly thrust aside and replaced by that of prevention. This change is traced in detail especially as related to "poverty" as a chief cause of illness. The supersession of the idea that public health is concerned only with infectious diseases is traced and the extension of the application of public health to disease in general and in particular of the medical care of motherhood and childhood is made very clear. The third and last section of the volume, concerned with the increasing socialisation of medicine, gives a clear picture of the rapid change in medical practice which is occurring under our eyes. It is based on the author's personal experiences in many countries, American as well as European. The combination of description of historical evolution and personal experiences makes this a real live book, of interest as much to the student of social science and administration as to the public health worker.

History of a different nature is made in two directions by "**King Hall Survey, 1936**" (George Newnes, Ltd., 6s.). In one direction, this book is a new departure in recording the events of a given period. It is in no sense a diary, but, rather, I suspect that it is a summary of the talks which Commander King Hall broadcasts every day on affairs in general. It is all to the good that such an able commentator as Commander King Hall should take the trouble to make a permanent record of the year's events, and he could not have chosen a more propitious moment than this to commence what he—and the majority of the thoughtful public—hopes will be an annual event. In the second direction, history is made in the sense that here is the complement of the school history book. In fact, I go further and say that if this survey is put to the right use, the school book will be but an index and the King Hall Survey the source from which history will be taught. This summary and interpretation of the happenings at home and abroad during 1936, together with a chronology, time charts, maps and nearly 200 photographs, should be in every home, for it is not only of outstanding interest to the adult population of to-day, but, what is more important, it is the story of to-day for the children of to-morrow.

Mr. Smellie needs no introduction to many members of the Association as he is a tutor for the Nalgo Correspondence Institute and has lectured at our summer schools. His "**A Hundred Years of English Government**" (Duckworth, 15/-) should be of interest to all members of the public services and in particular to students of the science of public administration. It is now a commonplace to remark that the most important change of the last century has been the extension of the sphere of governmental activity, but rarely has this fact been so well proved as in Mr. Smellie's book, for he not only traces the changes in constitutional law and outlines the main events in political history, but he has shown the changing ideas which underlie all these developments.

The other main merit of the book is its discussion of the development of the machinery of administration during the last century. The political history which is discussed has been covered before by many books, but there is no previous discussion of the development of the administrative machinery so complete or so practical as that which Mr. Smellie now gives us.

Home Gardening

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopedia of Gardening," etc.

READERS will have had opportunities by now of looking through the various seed catalogues which have poured in upon them from the closing days of December to the middle of January. The flood generally begins a week or two before Christmas and ends about a fortnight later: after that come a few stragglers, mostly of minor importance.

The catalogues are generally interesting, despite the fact that the older among us have learned to make allowances for florid descriptions and still more florid pictures. Rare fellows for rhetoric are seedsmen, and one often wonders what would happen if they turned novelists. Let us hope they won't, but will continue to make our mouths water while fiction-writers continue their sanguinary efforts to murder our sleep.

Looking through an old bill from a firm of high standing, and comparing it with results recorded in a notebook during last summer, I find an odd diversity of failures and successes. Why an almost complete failure with dwarf annual Phloxes Fireball and Meteor? I really don't know. I might write to the seedsman if I were not so sure that he would reply that mine was the only complaint among some seventy thousand customers. Why a terrific success, on the other hand, with Dwarf Hybrid Dahlias? Good cultivation, of course. Now both lots of seed came from the same firm, and the Dahlias did not, as you may suppose, have more artificial heat than the Phloxes, the fact being that they had none at all. Here and now I would say that the Dwarf Hybrid Dahlias, described as crosses between the Charm and Coltness Gem sections, are a genuine acquisition and never more will I be without them while I have sixpence left in my pocket. Sown in an unheated frame early in February, they began to bloom in July and never stopped till December. The height is rarely more than two feet when in full bloom, the stems are of a nice length for cutting, and there is a sufficient proportion of doubles and semi-doubles to provide a satisfactory amount of suitable vase material, which singles do not supply owing to their short life.

Reverting to the Phloxes, their places had to be taken by bought plants, and these, named respectively Rose Cardinal and Coccinea, the former pinkish, the latter brilliant red, went on famously until the appearance on the scene of a baby rabbit with a full-grown appetite. This creature (I really think there was only one) proved to have the cunning of an old dog-fox, and what one wily bunny can do in a week hardly bears telling. When, happily, he decided to transfer his attentions to a neighbour the Phloxes were a wreck, but they sprouted again after being eaten down to ground level (here is a point in favour of Phloxes) and did yeoman service in the end.

Nemesias were grand for months on end, lasting longer than usual (usual, that is, without regular watering) because of the wet summer. These lovely plants are such pronounced surface rooters that short of liberal watering or mulching (preferably both combined) they are apt to give out early in dry summers. The old Suttoni type is the largest and, on the whole, the best, but the Dwarf Compact strain does well if kept growing.

Apropos Nemesias, an old gardener assured me that they respond well to cutting-down when the first flush of bloom is over. They certainly respond, but if the shoots are left to get brown before it is done (and Nemesia growths do lose their verdancy with age) the results hardly justify the practice.

Nasturtiums had a good season, and just before sitting down to write I saw a letter in a daily paper saying that in one Somersetshire garden they had gone on from May to Christmas, and were "still running." I hope, as I expect, that the writer had the Gleam class in mind. My coloured (i.e., non-yellow) Gleams, bought under various names, were an absolute wash-out, whereas the original Golden Gleam was a brilliant success. I see that the seedsmen have a dwarf compact form of this and it will doubtless prove its value for bedding, but the first and only Golden Gleam is the thing for hanging baskets, window-boxes, etc.

Antirrhinums as sown at home were a complete failure, and that for the first time; in fact, it was home-sown Phloxes all over again, but Dazzler, Golden Queen Improved, and Nelrose bought in as seedlings were a glorious success, with never a sign of rust. I have told you before that I attribute such freedom from disease to presence of bonemeal and lime with corresponding absence of dung and I say so again now.

Zinnias had a good year and I do wish everybody would grow these flowers, for once in swing they give armfuls of brilliant bloom month after month, earwigs being kept under by trapping with hay-filled flower pots mounted on the stakes. (Yes, we stake Zinnias and find that it pays to do so.)

I see a Calendula (Marigold family) offered under the name Camp Fire Improved. Radio is very good, however, and there are many worse things than a bed of Calendulas that are freely cut from and well watered to encourage late bloom.

We shall all be after the yellow Siberian Wallflower called Allionii Golden Bedder, for the old form is rather mustardy in colour.

There are several new annual Larkspurs of the tall and medium types, but the standard varieties such as Gloria, salmon-rose, Peach Blossom, soft pink, Blue Spire and White Spire, will take a lot of beating.

Eschscholtzias, Godetias, Clarkias, Lupins, Sweet Peas, Asters, Stocks—all these loom up as largely as ever in the catalogues, and I hope all my readers will give them attention.

Bridge Forum

By NEVILLE HOBSON

I PROPOSE in the next three articles to summarise some important injunctions for the Bridge player in the form of "Don'ts."

I realise the advantages of a positive rule rather than a negative one, but the latter is the more effective angle from which to regard certain questions.

I will deal with (a) Bidding, (b) Play of the Cards, (c) Proprieties, separately, and will now indicate the general approach to these respective matters.

Bidding. I recognise the impossibility of summarising the main principles of Bidding—so far as the more involved phases of Contract are concerned. This game has now become so involved and convention-ised that many bids have a significance solely related to an artificial system, and have no bearing upon the general principles.

At the same time, there are many sound working rules which can usefully be emphasised, and several of these have application both to Contract and Auction. Some of these recall the practical consequences of the values of the bids being graded (being higher in the case of No Trumps and the Major suits than the Minor ones), and helpful warnings can be given regarding these matters, as games are frequently lost through being played in a Minor suit when a Major call or No Trumps would produce game.

Play of Hands. No attempt will be made to deal with matters in any detail. I would urge, however, the importance of players acquainting themselves with the correct leads from the more usual combinations of cards, as there are still too many enthusiasts who have not (e.g.) learned the importance of leading King from K, Q instead of the Q, as—from a Bridge playing point of view—it has an entirely different significance.

Then again, the showing of a strong suit of your own before returning a lead are the most effective understandings for discarding can be made the subject useful hints, and problems like the covering of Honours and the clearing of entry cards in Dummy lend themselves to pithy reminders.

Proprieties. The Laws of Auction Bridge (1932) and Contract Bridge (1935) respectively comprise many matters which are grouped under the heading of "Proprieties."

This title replaces that of "Etiquette" which was used in the earlier sets of Laws and it would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of this aspect of Bridge.

There are still countless players who unconsciously, flout the essential understandings of a declared game. I know people who would look aghast if I were to say to my partner "Please don't take me out of Spades—I want to be left in," but who will give precisely the same information by a series of indirect remarks—coupled with appropriate facial expressions. Only recently I heard an old player say "Double" in a way which showed to his partner not to take the double out—but for the clear warning—his partner would certainly have done so and incidentally have been fully justified in so doing.